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NEWSWATCH



Sheikha Nashmiya speaks

Sheikha Nashmiya the sister of HH the Amir exudes an aura of sophistication as she speaks to Lima Al Khalafawi on her feelings of patriotism and her passion for collecting art.

See Page 7

Dependents visa transferable

By Bassam Al Qassas

An official source at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour announced yesterday that expatriates residing in Kuwait on dependent residence (Article 22) can transfer their residence into the private or public sector, provided they fulfil the necessary conditions.

The source said that such persons can apply to transfer their residences. It is well known that expatriates holding dependent visas are not allowed to work or seek any job in Kuwait. They were not allowed to transfer their residences into work residences either in the private or government sectors. Now, the ministry has allowed them to do so.

But the source affirmed that expatriates residing in Kuwait in accordance with Article 14 (temporary residency) cannot transfer their residences to the private or government sectors.

The source also confirmed that residences can be transferred from the private and government sectors into dependent visas provided the sponsor and the person concerned fulfil the necessary conditions for transfer.

Hirawi urged to send army: Christian militia leader Samir Geagea asked Syrian-backed President Elias Hirawi to send his army into the Christian enclave to end fighting that has killed more than 900 people in two months.

This move will be the only real, serious and practical way to end the war-torn division in East Beirut, Geagea, who heads the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, said on the LF-run Voice of Lebanon radio station. (Reuters)

India wishes success to PLO: India's president has said "we wish the people of Palestine every success in their struggle for a homeland under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative."

This came in a speech delivered by the Indian leader, Ramaswami Venkataaraman, during a banquet in his honour offered late last night by Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

Welcome ceremony cancelled: The ceremonial welcome at London's Victoria station for the president of India was cancelled on Tuesday because of a security scare over a suspect package, it was announced.

President Ramaswami Venkataaraman had earlier arrived at Gatwick airport and was welcomed upon his arrival for a few days state visit by the Duke and Duchess of Kent on behalf of the British Queen Elizabeth.

Defective gene discovered: A medical breakthrough which could vastly reduce the number of children born with crippling and often fatal disorders, was announced.

British and American scientists said they have located the defective gene which is responsible for the childhood disorder, spinal muscular atrophy, a muscle-withering disease affecting about one in 20,000 live births.

The discovery was reported in the UK journal, Nature, by Kay Davies of the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford and colleagues at Columbia University in New York. (Kuna)

Strongman's motion defeated: The central committee of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party yesterday defeated a motion by strongman Ali Saleh Al Beidh to gain sweeping command of the country, party officials reported.

The decision came in an all-night session that ended at dawn.

Al Beidh, secretary-general of the ruling Marxist-style party since the civil war of 1986, had proposed doubling as chairman of the presidium, the leading executive post in the country, in a revamp of the three top posts in the country.

Government secrets: The US government says it is finally getting a handle on how many secrets it creates each year.

Its best guess is that the "top secret," "secret" and "confidential" stampings were wielded 6,796,501 times in the 12 months that ended Sept. 30.

That was a 35 per cent decrease from the year before, but the gains are somewhat illusory.

Libya urges to release hostages: Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has urged Muslim kidnappers to release their hostages during the current Islamic holy month of Ramadan, the official Libyan news agency Jana said yesterday.

Jana, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said Gaddafi called on Muslims to adhere to "the noble Islamic values which affirm the honour and humanity of man and the non-taking of innocent hostages."

Israel preparing for war

Tel Aviv possesses 200 N-bombs, refuses all peace initiatives: Arafat

PARIS, April 4, (Agencies): The chairman of the PLO, Yasser Arafat charged yesterday that Israel is "preparing for war" and possesses "200 nuclear bombs in addition to chemical and conventional weapons," in an interview in Tunis with the Italian news Agency Ansa.

In his interview with Ansa, Arafat, who will travel to Rome and the Vatican after meeting with Carter, asserted that Israel was stockpiling nuclear weapons and stalling the peace process.

"The Israelis are preparing for war," he said. "They have refused all the peace initiatives, UN resolution 161, the Palestinian initiative, the Franco-Soviet initiative, the 10-point Egyptian plan and even the Baker

"This problem is very serious because the Israelis will have in immigration of around 300,000 people per year from the Soviet Union, the countries of eastern Europe and Ethiopia," Arafat said. "In the year 2000 Israel will have three million citizens, doubling its present population."

Israel's second experimental satellite is orbiting the earth every 90 minutes and will remain in space for about 60 days, Israel space agency officials said today.

"Until now, all functions are working as planned and we are very satisfied with it," space agency administrator Moshe Bar-Lev told Israel radio.

The 160-kilogram (352-pound) satellite Ofek-2 was launched yesterday by a three-stage rocket developed by Israel. Bar-Lev said the satellite had circled earth 16 times so far and that they are able to contact it every time it passes over the country.

The director of the space agency, Yuval Neeman, said the Ofek-2 was lifted into space by the "Shavit" — Hebrew for comet — launcher which was developed by the Israeli aircraft industries.

"It has two stages that are big rockets and a third and last stage which is really a small engine used to put the satellite into its proper orbit," he told the Associated Press.

Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Arens called Saddam the obstacle to peace in the Middle East yesterday and urged nations to take the "necessary steps," to halt the threat of chemical weapons.

Arens said the arsenals of the Arab nations were "larger than all of NATO," but he feared more the stockpile of chemical weapons by Iraq, Syria and Libya.

Iraq accused Israel today of seeking to destroy Iraqi industry and science in order to maintain its military edge in the region and avoid making peace with the Arabs.

The PLO has backed Iraq's claim it was the victim of a western campaign to curb its might as a regional force able to tip the balance of power in the Middle East in favour of the Palestinians.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to Arafat, said in a statement the campaign against Iraq was part of a "complicated plot to curtail the development of this country as the nucleus of power for the whole Arab nation..."

People were confined to their homes by an indefinite curfew imposed shortly after yesterday's bombing.

Police said 33 people were killed and 68 were injured when the bomb exploded as about 100,000 Hindus celebrating the birth of the warrior-god Rama paraded through a crowded vegetable market. Most of the victims were Hindus, but some Sikh onlookers were among the dead and injured.

Immediately after the blast, two nurses at a nearby hospital and a Sikh policeman were beaten to death by angry Hindus, witnesses said.

The nurses' religion was not immediately known. The women were killed after a Hindu crowd became furious at finding no doctors on duty at the hospital, the witnesses said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

One of the most influential Sikh leaders in Punjab blamed the bomb blast on "oppressive state machinery" and said it was timed to prolong the federal government's rule in the state.

Inside parliament, members of the opposition Congress Party walked out when Speaker Rabi Ray refused to allow a motion to set aside normal business so that the Lok Sabha, or house of the people, could discuss the Batala violence.

Bush may testify for Imelda

President, CIA were aware of all transactions

NEW YORK, April 4, (AP): Imelda Marcos' attorney claimed yesterday that President George Bush urged her husband to invest in US real estate and that the Central Intelligence Agency "was aware of every transaction" for which she is now on trial.

Gerald Spence said he plans to call Bush as a defence witness.

He made the comments in opening arguments in the trial of the wife of the late former Philippines leader Ferdinand Marcos and her co-defendant, Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi.

Earlier, a prosecutor portrayed Mrs Marcos as an uncontrolled spender who treated the Philippine National Bank as her "personal piggy bank."

Both Marcoses were named in the 1988 indictment that charged them with stealing millions of dollars from the Philippine treasury to buy Manhattan real estate, jewellery and art.

Spence said Marcos was warned by the CIA that he might not have enough money to marshal a force to recapture the Philippines if it was taken over by communist rebels.

The evidence in this case is that the CIA was aware of every transaction that took place in this case, Spence said without giving details.

Prosecutors objected repeatedly as Spence gave a rambling discourse of Philippine history. Judge John F. Keenan sharply rebuked the defence attorney several times.

Earlier, Mrs Marcos broke into tears as Spence told the jury that the former Philippine first lady was a devoted wife committed to defending the honour of her late husband.

Although Spence said he was not going to use an innocent-spouse defence, he claimed Mrs Marcos, 60, did not understand the "intricacies of finance."

Assistant US attorney Debra Livingston, however, told the jurors in Manhattan's federal court that the Marcoses were "partners in crime" who exported "fraud on a colossal scale" to the United States.

Livingston said the couple grabbed from a dollar-poor country to satisfy Imelda Marcos' voracious appetite for real estate, jewellery and art" and make multimillion-dollar purchases.

The mourners remained peaceful, however, throughout an hour-long service for Ashfaq Majid Wani, who died Friday when a grenade he was preparing to throw at security forces exploded in his hand after he was shot.

Meanwhile, another of the five people shot late Monday by security forces died yesterday in a Srinagar hospital, bringing to three the death toll in the latest flare-up of violence.

Police and hospital sources said the five people were hit by gunfire from a Central Reserve Police Force patrol at about 11 pm Monday outside a mosque in Baramulla, 30 miles northwest of Srinagar.

Two people died at the scene and the other three were taken to a hospital in Srinagar.

Policemen did not say what provoked the incident and provided no further details.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, curfew was relaxed yesterday from 7 am to 4 pm.

Most businesses remained closed, however, to mourn the death of Wani, a local commander of the separatist Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, police and witnesses said.

Livingston said the Marcoses also allegedly defrauded banking institutions of \$165 million to finance the upkeep of the properties.

The prosecutor said the "gigantic web of fraud" was held together by secrecy and accomplices who acted as fronts for the Marcoses.

Zahid Matar



Prisoner-hostage
Hooded prisoners display an apparent hostage (no name) on the roof of Strangeways. One prisoner gestured to police that the hostage would be thrown off the roof. (Reuters wirephoto) See story Page 2.

UAE pardons 150 prisoners

ABU DHABI, April 4, (AP): President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan today ordered the release of 150 prisoners to mark the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The official UAE news agency Wam reported that along with the release order, Sheikh Zayed decided to underway any financial claims on the released prisoners.

The prisoners were from Abu Dhabi and its suburbs of Al Ain. Zayed took the decision in his capacity as ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi is the biggest of seven emirates federated in the UAE.

DAY BY DAY

THE Director of the Traffic Department is taking a tough line against traffic violators.

While we appreciate and thank him for this approach, we wish that stiff penalties are similarly extended to those who drive at high speed, cross from right to left and misbehave with other drivers. Such people also throw paper tissues and other litter from their cars and need strict punishment and discipline.

We say they should be jailed for not a month, but as long as they are basically helping harm to others, disgrace their country and debase the city and its roads.

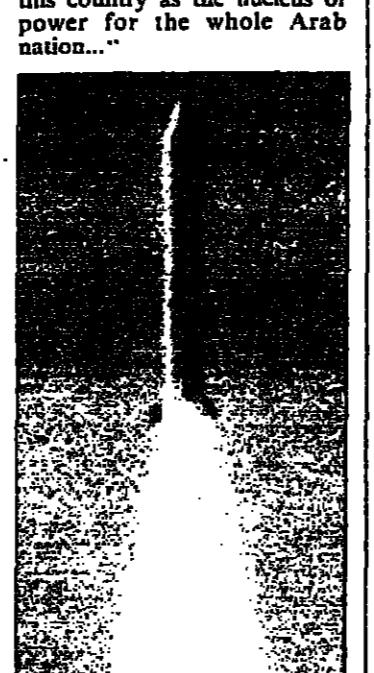
We believe it is now the duty of the state to punish such persons — after their parents failed to own up to their responsibilities.

Zahid Matar

Ramadan timings

Thursday
Imsak: 4:02 am; Iftar: 6:09 pm

Friday
Imsak: 4:01 am; Iftar: 6:10 pm



Israeli satellite Ofek-2

Belgium king temporarily abandons throne over abortion law

BRUSSELS, April 4, (AP): King Baudouin stepped down temporarily today rather than sign into law a bill ending a 123-year ban on abortion in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Belgium.

Baudouin was suspended as monarch at his own request. After announcing the suspension, the government said it had enacted the abortion bill adopted last week without the royal assent required by the constitution.

The government then recalled the bicameral Parliament from its Easter recess for a joint legislative session tomorrow to restore Baudouin as the constitutional monarch of the nation of 10 million.

first 12 weeks of pregnancy if the woman is deemed in a state of "distress."

Under the law, a doctor must determine that state. But opponents of the measure have said the term is meaningless and makes abortion available on demand.

The vote capped a 16-year period in which more than two dozen pro-abortion bills were voted down in the Parliament.

Until now, abortion was a criminal offence under a 1867 law that provided for prison terms of up to five years for offenders.

But enforcement of the ban had become spotty. Some



King Baudouin

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'Reign of terror is over' in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, April 4, (AP): President Ranasinghe Premadasa, opening a new session of Parliament, said today the "reign of terror" in this tropical island was over.

The chief opposition parties disagreed with Premadasa's rosy assessment, which was reminiscent of his independence day speech exactly two months.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party, headed by former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and two allied parties boycotted the parliamentary meeting. The parties issued a statement saying their absence was in protest of "undemocratic actions of the government, the murders, abductions and violations of human rights and the limitless burdens heaped on the people by the increasing cost of living."

The three parties, which hold 73 of parliament's 225 seats, also said there was no point in attending the session since presidential speeches are not topics for debate.

Premadasa, whose United National Party has 124 seats, maintained the worst was over and the fear that had gripped the country had disappeared.

The president, who took office on Jan 2, 1989, said that last year "disruptions and destruction became the order of the day. ... The very foundations of democracy in Sri Lanka was threatened. The country was engulfed in a reign of terror unprecedented in our nation."

Last June it entered negotiations with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the most powerful of the Tamil guerrilla groups that launched a separatist insurrection against the Sinhalese-dominated government in 1983.

In the final months of 1989 it desimated the leadership of Sinhalese extremists trying to overthrow it.

On March 24 the last Indian peacekeeping troops, who had bogged down in a stalemate bush war with the Tamil Tigers, left Sri Lanka.

Premadasa asked all ethnic groups to prepare for sacrifice to help solve the problems of the Tamil minority.

More than 17,000 people died in the island's twin wars. At least 11,000 people were killed in the Tamil revolt in the past nine years.

More than 6,000 more died when Sinhalese extremists from the People's Liberation Front launched a violent backlash against the government for offering concessions to the Tamils. Government security forces and pro-government vigilante groups unleashed an offensive against the Front, and for months that charred and mutilated bodies of suspected Sinhalese subversives turned up along the roads every morning.

Premadasa said the terror that gripped Sri Lanka, once a prime tourist destination, had cost the Indian ocean island \$272 million through property damage and lost revenue.

The president said the time now was ripe for reforms. He pledged to eliminate corruption in public life, lessen controls on government-owned corporations and offer improved climates for foreign investment.

4 killed

Bomb rocks Lahore

LAHORE, April 4, (AP): A bomb rocked Pakistan's ancient eastern city of Lahore yesterday, killing four and injuring 22 police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the mid-afternoon explosion in a congested marketplace in Lahore's old city, said a police officer, who refused to give his name.

The bomb, hidden in a cardboard crate, went off when a fruit hawk spotted the abandoned crate and tried to move it, officers at the scene said.

Hundreds of bombs have exploded in recent years in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, home to more than three million Afghan refugees who have fled the bloody civil war in their homeland.

Pakistani officials regularly blame the bombings on agents of Afghanistan's communist government, a charge Afghan President Najib

routinely denies.

Bombings have been rare, however, in eastern Pakistani cities and towns such as Lahore.

One man was killed in a gunfight between police and striking transport workers in Karachi yesterday, police said.

Conservatives order councils to cut poll tax

It's Thatcher's final admission of failure, says Labour leader in Parliament

LONDON, April 4, (UPI): A Labour Party leader said the government admitted failure by ordering local councils mostly controlled by Labour to cut poll taxes, the levy that has sparked sometimes violent reaction among Britons.

Environment Minister Chris Patten, whose office oversees domestic taxes, said yesterday order was necessary because the local governments were overspending and overburdening taxpayers.

But a Labour leader in Parliament,

Bryan Gould, described the order to cap taxes in some opposition-controlled areas as the government's "final admission of the poll tax's failure" and an effort to "shift the blame."

"If accountability is the key, why couldn't (the government) wait for the voters to pass judgement," he said.

"They've given up trying to make the poll tax work, they've given up trying to help the poll tax payers, their sole objective now is trying to shift the blame."

The poll tax or community charge, under which every adult is charged the

same amount, was mandated by the central government to replace taxes based on the value of a taxpayer's property. Local councils set the fee.

Unlike income tax, or the property tax it replaces, the poll tax does not discriminate according to wealth, which has caused bitter complaints.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been a long-time opponent of property taxes, which fall most heavily on Conservative Party voters.

She advocated the poll tax as a way of equally spreading the costs of local

services among the 34 million people who elect local councils, and of curbing high spending by Labour authorities by making them more accountable to their constituents.

The plan, however, has backfired, with latest polls showing the Conservatives lagging behind Labour by between 19 per cent and 28 per cent of those questioned.

Patten, the minister in charge of taxation, was jeered by opposition members of Parliament as he read the list of 20

areas in which he was ordering the poll tax to be capped. Eighteen of the local councils are controlled by the Labour Party and in two, no party has overall control.

There are hundreds of local councils, but the 20 areas singled out yesterday had among the highest rates of the poll tax, which vary from £148 (£241) annually to £573 (£934). Rates are set according to local government budgets and the caps Patten ordered will also

"It is little wonder that strong feel-

ings have been expressed up and down the country about the level of many charges," Patten said. "Charge payers are being asked to pay some 30 per cent more than domestic rate payers in 1989-90 and that is a position that is deplorable and an unacceptable burden on local people."

Labour leader Neil Kinnock accused Thatcher yesterday of being pleased by the riots and looting after a poll tax protest Saturday because the disorder diverted attention from the actual issue of the tax.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hindus wash off sins: Thousands of Hindus immersed themselves in a tributary of the sacred Brahmaputra river near the Bangladeshi capital on Tuesday in a ceremony aimed at cleansing themselves of sin and securing divine blessings.

Organisers said more than 100,000 Hindus, including visitors from India, Nepal and Burma, took part in what was the biggest Hindu festival in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

The Bangladeshi government has renovated Hindu temples and set up camps for devotees at the festival site at Langalbandha, 20 miles (30 km) from Dhaka. (Reuters)

Dhaka storm toll 177: The death toll from the past nine days of tropical storms rose to 177 with the discovery of more bodies, while weather officials predicted Tuesday that at least 10 more tropical storms would batter Bangladesh in April.

Searchers sifting through the rubble of collapsed houses found eight bodies, while the bodies of three fishermen were recovered from a lake where their small boat had capsized, police said.

The fishermen drowned in Rangamati lake in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, 220 kilometres (135 miles) southeast of Dhaka, police said, speaking on condition of anonymity. (AP)

Boat capsizes, 50 feared dead: About 50 people were feared drowned after a boat capsized during a storm in northwestern Bangladesh, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The motor launch overturned Sunday night in the Jamuna river near Sirajganj, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Dhaka, the Bangladesh Times said.

The newspaper said about 30 of the 80 passengers swam to shore. As of Wednesday, five bodies had been recovered and the rest of the people were missing and feared dead, the Times said. (AP)

Jama Masjid renovations: Renovation work of the historic Jama Masjid of Delhi, being carried out by the National Front government at an estimated cost of Rs 5 million has created controversy as many Hindu organisation have objected to it.

The World Hindu Council (Vishwa Hindu Parishad) has protested to Prime Minister V. P. Singh for directing the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to carry out renovation of major portion of the 16th century mosque. (Kuma)

Doi pledges democracy: The leader of Japan's Socialist Party, which recently abandoned its long-standing goal of a socialist revolution, called for a new principle of social democracy Tuesday and for more reforms in the party's policies.

"As the world's mainstream finds answers in the principle of social democracy, we must unite social democratic forces within Japan to pave the way for a realisation of social democracy in this country," party chairwoman Takako Doi told the party's annual convention, which began Tuesday in Tokyo. (AP)

China parliament closes: China's parliament closed its annual session Wednesday after approving a law under which much of Hong Kong's present system will be preserved under Chinese rule.

The 2,700 deputies to the 15-day session of the National People's Congress also approved a law



Miss Universe delegates

Delegates for the 1990 Miss Universe Pageant are welcomed to Los Angeles after arriving April 2. From left to right they are Miss India Suzanne Subloak, Miss Turkey Janide Ates, Miss Japan Hiroko Miyoshi and Miss Korea Oh Hyun Kyung. The show is scheduled for April 15 at the Shrine Theatre in Century City. (Heiter wirephoto)

protecting foreign investors in China, a fifth straight deficit budget and a work report by Premier Li Peng which stresses that China will never yield to threats against its socialist system.

A resolution approved on the final day spoke of "historic victories" over the past year in furthering the socialist cause in China. (AP)

Illegal immigrants: Italy's deputy prime minister has proposed using the army and navy to keep illegal immigrants out of the country.

Claudio Martelli, socialist criticised by other parties in the governing coalition for being too soft on illegal immigration, told an Italian newspaper on Wednesday he would outline his plan to the cabinet soon.

In recent months Italy has reported numerous cases of illegal immigrants trying to enter through ports, mostly in the south, or by walking across northern land borders with France, Switzerland, Austria and Yugoslavia. (Reuters)

Ireland to abolish death penalty: Ireland is to formally abolish the death penalty and introduce automatic jail sentences of at least 30 years for certain convicted killers, the government said in a bill published on Wednesday.

Capital punishment has been retained in Ireland for the killers of policemen, prison officers and foreign leaders and diplomats since hanging for all other killings was abolished in late 1950s.

Irish Justice Minister Ray Burke published details of a bill to replace the death penalty with mandatory 40-year jail sentences which, with remission, mean that killers will have to spend at least 30 years in prison. (Reuters)

'Joy ends in tragedy'

Childbirth kills many Asian women

LAHORE, Pakistan, April 4, (Reuters): The joy of motherhood ends in tragedy in South Asia more often than anywhere else in the world — with the death of the mother and often the baby.

Death in childbirth, all but unknown in developed countries, remains a huge problem in parts of Asia where poverty, ignorance, poor health care and cultural pressures to have a lot of children take a terrible toll on women.

Of the 500,000 women who die in childbirth each year around the world, about 300,000 are in India and neighbouring countries.

"Maternal mortality is too often the end result of a life diminished by discrimination from the moment of birth to early marriage," Dr Haldan Mahler, former head of the World Health Organisation (WHO), told a conference on Safe Motherhood last month.

"Indeed death may come as release for women who live in miserable poverty and whose full personal dignity is denied by custom, status and lack of access to education, medical care and self-determination," he told the gathering in the eastern city of Lahore.

Throughout much of the region sons are prized and the birth of a girl seen as a curse not a blessing. If she survives it will be on suffering — her brothers will get the lion's share of food, education and medical care.

Male dominance and ignorance of health and family planning are fueling a population explosion that will eventually give South Asia two of the world's three most populous countries.

India, with more than 800 million people, is second to China but could take over as most populous nation in the next 50 years.

Pakistan has one of the highest population growth rates at three per cent a year and is set eventually to become the third most populated country, a World Bank study said last year.

The average woman in South Asia gives birth to six children and probably is pregnant eight or nine times in her life, WHO says. One in every 38 dies from pregnancy-related problems compared with only one in 1,750 in the developed world.

"I think that demand for family planning is much greater for women. They're tired of having children and they want them better-spaced but I am not sure they have the decision-making ability or power," Dr Nafis Saidi, head of the UN Population Fund, said in an interview.

In overwhelmingly Muslim Pakistan women often have little say in their lives. Their testimony in court is worth only half that of men. Not even one woman in five gets to learn basic reading and writing.

Government ministers acknowledge in private that education and family planning must be used to reduce population growth if the country is to progress economically, but they fear provoking a confrontation with Islamic fundamentalists.

Nusrat Bhutto, the mother of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and a senior minister herself, astonished many in a speech to the conference in Lahore by raising the taboo subject of abortion — strictly illegal in Pakistan but widely practised.

Sadiq, a Pakistani and the first woman head of a major UN agency, urged Benazir to make family planning a non-partisan issue so that bold steps could be taken.

Mahler, who is now head of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, said: "When it comes to countries like Pakistan, politics is the art of doing the impossible. Politicians have to take risks."

Opponents of family planning argue that it deprives women of their right to choose whether or not to have children.

Women are exhausted by physical toil but also have the threat of another pregnancy, then our chances of doing something are very slight unless we improve family planning.

"I think to talk about safe motherhood without emphasising family planning is rather a joke," Mahler said in an interview.

"If women are exhausted by physical toil but also have the threat of another pregnancy, then our chances of doing something are very slight unless we improve family planning."

Since starting an emergency maternal ambulance service in 1988 and training for illiterate women who traditionally attend home births in the slums, the professor of gynaecology said her team had managed to cut maternal deaths by half.

Typically, girls marry very young and often have their first child before they are fully mature themselves.

These young brides are most at risk of dying in pregnancy, along with women who become pregnant again before they have recovered from a previous birth.

Delicate talks continue

Strangeways prisoner dies

MANCHESTER, April 4, (AP): The governor of Strangeways prison said today that he was pursuing "delicate and difficult" negotiations with a dwindling band of rebellious inmates.

One prisoner died yesterday of injuries suffered during a riot that erupted at a Sunday chapel service. Prison Governor Brendan O'Friel said he feared that another fatality may come to light as guards regain control of the facility.

This morning, fewer than a hundred prisoners still held control of the

upper floors of four wings of the prison in the northern city of Manchester. Four prisoners appeared today morning on the prison's snow-covered roof, following a third night without heat or light in the ravaged cellblocks.

"We're now in a delicate and difficult situation ... but my hope is that these negotiations will result in a peaceful end to this incident," O'Friel told reporters.

He commended his staff for containing what he called an "explosion of evil" on Sunday, when he said more than 1,500 inmates were out of control.

About 20 "hard core" prisoners were stopping other inmates from giving up, said Ivor Serie, a guard and chairman of the local branch of the Prison Officers' Association.

Serie said he understood 68 inmates were still on the loose in the prison. A spokesman for the Home Office, whose jurisdiction includes prisons, put the figure at under 40.

Thirteen guards were hurt by flying bricks, poles and other objects in an operation yesterday to regain control, Serie said. Six of the injured guards were hospitalised, he said.

A resolution approved on the final day spoke of "historic victories" over the past year in furthering the socialist cause in China. (AP)

Manchester-born Derek White, 46, died yesterday in north Manchester hospital from head wounds and chest pains. He was jailed while awaiting trial for alleged indecent assault and buggery.

Sex offenders, child molesters, convicted policemen, and AIDS sufferers are among those subject to special loathing among prison inmates.

White was among a group of 50 such prisoners being held in a segregated wing, when other prisoners at a religious service in the prison on Sunday overpowered guards and took their keys.

They used them to gain access to large areas of the prison, including the segregated section. They attacked White and other members of the group and in a general rampage through the prison started fires, smashed fixtures and broke through on

Lifestyle changes lower heart disease risk

BOSTON, April 4. (UPI): Lifestyle changes like eating low-fat foods and stopping smoking can significantly cut death rates for men at high risk of developing heart disease, a decade-long study of more than 12,000 men confirmed yesterday.

Men who were advised to adopt healthier lifestyles — and who did so — had 24 per cent fewer fatal heart attacks, plus a lower death rate from all causes, than similar men who received no such advice, researchers said.

But the benefits of the changes took 10 years to become apparent, said Dr Jeremiah Stamler, co-author of the study and a cardiology professor at Northwestern University in

Chicago. The study, called the Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial or MRFIT, involved 12,866 men ages 35 to 57 whose cholesterol levels, blood pressure and cigarette smoking habits put them at high risk for heart disease.

The men were examined at 22 medical centres nation-wide. Researchers placed 6,428 of them in a "special intervention" group in which they received counselling on ways to eat better, lose weight and quit smoking.

A second group consisting of 6,438 men received standard medical care for high blood pressure and other problems, but were not given advice about smoking or diets.

Tobacco responsible for 2.5m deaths per year

GENEVA, April 4. (Kuna): The Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, has called for wide collaboration in the struggle against tobacco consumption.

Nakajima was addressing some 1,000 specialists from 70 countries participating in the seventh World Conference on Smoking and Health in Perth, Australia, according to a statement released here yesterday.

Recalling that the consumption of tobacco is responsible for more than 2.5 million deaths each year, Nakajima stressed that WHO was on the front line in the struggle against this bad habit which is the most preventable cause of ill-health in the world today.

"The tobacco or health programme is different from

most other WHO programmes," he said, "it does not work to protect human beings against nature forces, such as disease or catastrophe, but rather against other human beings peddling a dangerous drug."

The director-general criticized the tobacco industry for spending thousands of millions of dollars on advertising which presents a flattering, often dazzling, image of smoking — thus, he said, sustains an addiction which would otherwise die out.

The situation is worse in developing countries, where Nakajima said were unable to cope with the social and economic costs of further avoidable ill-health caused by tobacco.

After the study had been going on for more than six years, researchers found no significant differences in mortality from heart disease and all other causes between the two groups.

But the latest follow-up, taken after the men had been in the programme for an average of 10.3 years, found a sharply lower heart attack mortality rate for the special Intervention Group

and an overall death rate eight per cent lower than that of the "usual care" group, researchers reported in the journal of the American Medical Association.

The study also found men in

the Intervention Group had 10 per cent fewer deaths from all forms of heart disease than the others.

Stamler said his results demonstrate that "coronary disease is a long story" that can be altered significantly only by lifestyle changes over a period of many years.

"We're talking about permanent improvements in habits, not temporary changes," Stamler said.

In addition to being told to stop smoking, the men in the Intervention Group were shown how to eat less food containing saturated fat and cholesterol, increase consumption of foods with polyunsaturated fats and if necessary lose weight.

Abortion pill to be tested: doctors

SAN FRANCISCO, April 4. (UPI): Doctors at three hospitals are seeking permission to start human tests of the controversial French "abortion pill," a move that could pave the way for the drug's availability in California.

The request to start tests of the drug RU 486 was disclosed at a county board of supervisors meeting, where a resolution was introduced urging the governor and the state legislature to pay for the tests.

The drug, currently sold in France by the firm Roussel Uclaf, works by blocking the hormone progesterone, causing a fertilised egg to be dispelled. Unlike traditional abortions, a woman does not need to undergo the process in a medical clinic.

"If we in San Francisco can lead the way through this study to making RU 486 available throughout the United States, we will have done a great deal of good for our generation of women, as well as those who follow," said Carol Ruth Silver, a spokeswoman for Every Child a Wanted Child.

The hospitals wrote the proposal at the behest of Silver, an ex-supervisor who founded the organisation to bring RU 486 to the United States.

The French abortion pill is unlikely to win approval from the Food and Drug Administration for nation-wide testing because of the Bush administration's opposition to abortion.

But testing in California could be carried out independent from the FDA under state legislation passed to help speed testing of AIDS drugs. Since 1984, the University of Southern California has tested RU 486 on 300 women seeking abortions, but those trials were not designed to win approval to market the drug, a spokeswoman for the Population Council said.

Under the San Francisco proposal, RU 486 would be tested in trials involving 200 women at San Francisco General Hospital, children's hospital and the University of California at San Francisco.

Fashion show

Model for Gordon Henderson at the 1990 Fall/Winter fashion show in New York on Tuesday wears red wool sweater with ski mask. (Reuter wirephoto)

Telephone cartels attacked

LONDON, April 4. (Reuters): Cartel-like arrangements keep international phone call prices artificially high and have led to telephone user worldwide being overcharged by more than \$10 billion a year, a British newspaper alleged yesterday.

Quoting a confidential report prepared last year by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), the Financial Times said a Geneva-based secretariat sets rates and higher volumes of traffic and penalise phone companies which cuts price.

In the last 10 years, a gulf between the cartel's prices and the costs of making international calls has widened, it said.

Secretariat members include British Telecommunications, American Telephone and Telegraph of the United States, Kokusai Denshin Denwa of Japan and West Germany's Bundespost.

While the companies argue that high costs justify prices, telecommunications experts said technological advances mean international calls should cost little more than domestic calls, the Financial Times said.

International prices have fallen in recent years, the report said, but not as fast as underlying costs.

Hearing over gold booty starts

Treasure hunters vs insurance firms

NORFOLK, Virginia, April 4. (UPI): A complicated legal battle over sunken treasure worth hundreds of millions of dollars began yesterday to determine who owns more than a tonne of gold discovered off the Atlantic Coast.

A group of Ohio researchers turned treasure hunters, who brought up the booty with the help of an underwater robot last summer, are pitted against nine insurance companies seeking a share of the loot.

Lawyers for the Columbus-America Discovery group argued yesterday that outside claims related to the 19th century shipwreck are untimely and unwarranted. The group seeks to show the gold cannot be claimed by insurers if they have no proof of covering items brought up from the ocean floor.

The case hit some legal shoals in its opening moments as a federal judge heard two motions to intervene, one from Columbia University and one from a private interest.

An attorney for the university, John Richardson, argued its researchers provided sonar work crucial to the treasure discovery. The university's attorneys also charged Columbus-America may have misrepresented their finding in the court documents to throw off other groups.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

WASHINGTON: First Lady Barbara Bush said Tuesday that she no longer suffers double vision caused by Graves disease.

"Last week was the first week without seeing double," she told reporters at the White House. "I think the radiation worked. That's very good news."

She said she believes radiation treatment she underwent in January has affected the vision problem. Aides had said it would take two to four months before it would be known if the treatment was effective.

Mrs Bush was diagnosed last year with Graves disease, an immune system disorder that initially attacked her thyroid, causing dramatic weight loss. It caused eye irritation and double vision, especially in the morning.

AUCKLAND, New Zealand: New Zealand's Rude Food Company has found that making money is simply a matter of putting the icing on the cake.

For between 65-85 New Zealand dollars (\$38-50) it will bake a cake iced with a design explicit enough to turn birthday blushes blue.

"We do from hot lips to frilly knickers and all the bits in between," manager Paul Preston said on Wednesday.

Women are the company's best customers, partner Murray McCleman said. "We've even had one woman wanting one for her son."

LONDON: An unidentified Japanese bidding by telephone paid a record price of £23.74 million (\$6.09 million) for a work by artist Marc Chagall in a sale at Sotheby's Auction House in London Tuesday.

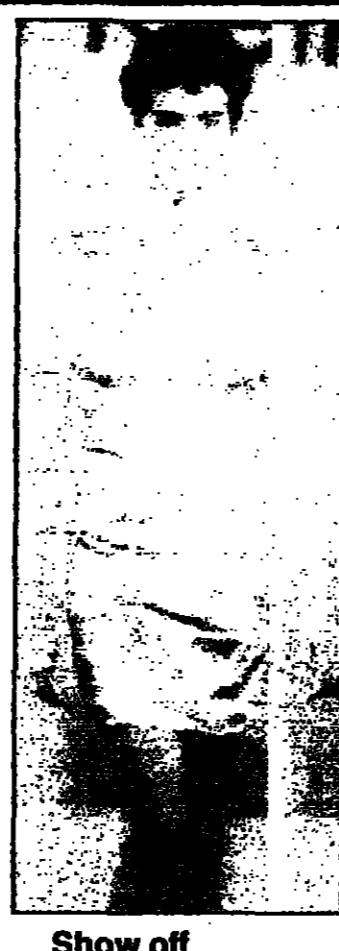
The price for the picture, "The Bride Under the Canopy," hit Sotheby's pre-sale estimate of between £3 and £4 million (\$4.8 and \$6.5 million).

The 1949 painting by the Russian-born artist was the highest priced work in the sale of impressionist and modern art, which realised an overall total of £33.76 million (£55 million). (AP)

ST PETERSBURG, Florida: Stacey Twins born last month connected at the chest and abdomen underwent separation surgery Tuesday.

Jakob and James Watkins went into the scheduled 10-hour operation at All Children's Hospital shortly before 11 am (1500 GMT). Doctors scheduled a post-operation news conference for Wednesday to discuss the results.

The twins, born Feb 28 to Raquel and Scott Watkins at St Petersburg, had already been diagnosed as good candidates for the surgery because they have separate hearts, lungs and kidneys. (AP)



Show off

Models for Calvin Klein show off at the 1990 Fall/Winter fashion show in New York on Tuesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

White reported near death

INDIANAPOLIS, April 4. (AP): Ryan White, the teen-age AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance won hearts and better understanding of the disease throughout the United States, was reported near death yesterday on a life-support system.

His mother and sister remained at the bedside of the 18-year-old, who during his 5 1/2-year battle with AIDS grew from an object of scorn in his hometown to an international spokesman for children with the disease.

"He's not expected to come out of it," said Carrie van Dyke, director of health promotion for the state board of health and a spokeswoman for the White family. Sandy Marthys Roob, a spokeswoman at Riley hospital for children, said yesterday morning that White remained in critical condition.

Increased

White, a hemophiliac who contracted AIDS from contaminated blood products, increased awareness of the disease and helped reinforce the message that AIDS cannot be spread through casual contact. His struggle was the subject of a cover story in the national magazine People and a TV movie.

Four years ago, White, who was diagnosed as having AIDS at 13, was barred from school near Kokomo by officials who feared AIDS could be transmitted to other students.

But their surprise was nothing compared to that of a friend who telephoned Oslo Kretsfengsel prison saying he was a policeman and telling the authorities to release them.

"It was meant as an April Fool's joke — I probably got the biggest shock when I saw my friends free on Sunday night," the man who made the phone call told the Norwegian daily Verdens Gang on Tuesday. He asked not to be named.

The prison's deputy director Are Hoeydal, told Reuters prison officials should not have released the two without written authorisation from the police.

"There was a misunderstanding," he said.

Support

"I was labeled a troublemaker, my mom an unfit mother, and I was not welcome anywhere... even at church, people would not shake my hand," he said.

He urged the teachers to "help me beat the odds and together let's educate and save the children of the world... by proper education, AIDS can be a disease, not a dirty word."

The teenager was admitted to Riley hospital with a respiratory infection and was suffering from internal bleeding that was inoperable because of his hemophilia, which impairs the blood's ability to clot, officials said.

White's battle with AIDS sent him to Washington to testify before Congress and to California for star-studded fund-raisers. He gained the support of Michael Jackson and other entertainers, including Elton John, who telephoned the family on Monday.

Last week, Ryan appeared with former President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, at a function in Los Angeles for sick and disadvantaged youth sponsored by athletes and entertainers for kids. The organization has established the Ryan White National Education Programme for Youth, an AIDS education forum.



Tribute to trooper

Police motorcycles lead a six-mile motorcade on Monday around the city of Baltimore as officers and civilians alike pay tribute to slain Maryland trooper Theodore Wolf. The officer was killed on March 29, after stopping a car on northbound I-95. (Reuter wirephoto)

US Senate approves clean air bill

WASHINGTON, April 4. (AP): The Senate overwhelmingly approved sweeping air pollution controls on automobiles, factories and power plants yesterday after a decade of struggle over whether to strengthen federal clean air laws.

The new controls, which are estimated to cost the economy \$21 billion a year when they go fully into effect, were approved by a vote of 89-1.

President George Bush, speaking in Indianapolis in advance of Senate action, called it "a historic

vote" that would "affect generations to come as we work to build a cleaner, safer America."

Senate approval shifted the clean air debate to the House of Representatives, where a similar bill is being written by the energy and commerce committee. John Dingell, the panel's chairman, said he plans to have the committee vote by week's end and expects action by the entire house next month.

Differences in the Senate and House measures will then still have to be worked out.



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World News Roundup



Chai Ling

Chai Ling in Paris
Chinese fugitive narrowly escapes

TAIPEI, April 4. (Agencies): Chai Ling, the student leader who was one of China's most wanted fugitives, made several aborted attempts to flee the country before finally escaping to France this week, a leading newspaper reported today.

After 10 months on the run in China following the June 4 military suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations that she helped lead, Chai has emerged in the West with her husband, Feng Congde.

Both were on a wanted list of 21 student leaders sought by the Chinese communist authorities, who have labelled the pro-democracy protests a "counterrevolutionary rebellion."

Chai, 23, made a dramatic appearance on Hong Kong television last night from an undisclosed location in the West to announce her escape.

Speaking in a near whisper, the haggard-looking Chai vowed to keep fighting for democracy and paid tribute to her compatriots who gave their lives for freedom.

Although the broadcast did not say where the appearance was made, sources said Chai is in Paris.

Chai's escape received massive coverage in Hong Kong's newspapers today, reflecting the widespread sympathy the pro-democracy students in Beijing have generated in the British colony that is to revert to Chinese rule in 1997.

In Taiwan, newspapers printed her televised statement and picture on front page.

The mass-circulation China Times newspaper of Taiwan said the fugitive couple "tried several times to leave the border but failed to take action because of problems at the reception end."

They finally escaped "the tight network of Chinese public security personnel, went through a tough journey and setbacks, then left the mainland," the newspaper said in a report from a reporter it said had interviewed Chai.

The China Times report did not provide details of the escape, but in her televised interview Chai acknowledged the difficulty she encountered.

According to the China Times, the couple fled Beijing by train shortly after the June 4 crackdown that left hundreds, perhaps thousands, dead. They soon separated and remained apart for eight months before rejoining two months ago.



Nazi murderer to face charges

One of the most-wanted alleged Nazi war criminals will be sent to West Germany to face charges of mass murder after avoiding justice for four decades, the government said Tuesday.

Former SS Capt. Joseph Schwammberger, accused of killing thousands of people when he commanded Nazi labour camps in Poland, is expected to be extradited to West Germany from Argentina on May 3, the Justice Ministry said.

Schwammberger was arrested (right after the arrest) on Nov. 13, 1987 in a remote part of Argentina, where he had been living as fugitive for years. (Picture left shows Schwammberger in his early years. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Michelangelo's nudes'

VATICAN CITY, April 4. (Reuter): Art restorers said yesterday they could not remove veils and other coverings added to hide nudity in Michelangelo's Last Judgment frescoes in the Sistine Chapel because the originals had been destroyed.

The announcement was made after a week-long international symposium of art historians studying the first phase of a multi-million dollar restoration of one of the world's greatest art treasures.

The 10-year cleaning of the ceiling frescoes was completed last month and scaffolding has been built for a four-year project to restore a massive, 300-figure scene depicting the Last Judgment on the wall behind the main altar.

America

Ullmann testifies on war kids: Actress Liv Ullmann told a Senate subcommittee on Tuesday that every other movement of these second hand signals the death of a child from neglect, disease or war.

"Every day in our world, from neglect, from preventable disease, from war, 40,000 children die," the film and stage star told the Senate Labour and Human Resources Subcommittee on Children, Family, Drugs and Alcoholism.

Ullmann spoke as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, better known as Unicef. The subcommittee was receiving testimony on the effects of war on children. (AP)

Supernova scanners: In a major astronomical development, new scanners have recently located five elusive supernovas (dying stars) in the cosmos, scientists reported on Tuesday in Washington.

The "Berkeley System," so named because the scanner is located at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, incorporates computer and huge mirrors.

Without human touch, the computers all night long guide a telescope with a 30-inch light-focusing mirror. The scope finds one of the 1,300 galaxies on its list, then focuses and records the image electronically — all in about one minute.

The "Berkeley System," so named because the scanner is located at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab, incorporates computer and huge mirrors.

The computer compares this image dot by dot with an image made in the last observation session. If differences turn up and remain after checking, astronomers are warned the next morning that a new supernova may have appeared. (Kuna)

Soviet ambassador in US replaced: Diplomatic officials confirmed on Tuesday that the Soviet ambassador to the United States, Yuri Dubinin, will be replaced this summer by the Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Minister, Aleksander Bessmyrnykh.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said no date was set for the transfer but it was expected to take place following the summit meeting in late June in Washington between President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. (UPI)

Poindexter jury locked up: The Iran-Contra jury that will decide the fate of John Poindexter was locked up on Tuesday because two jurors were contacted by a newspaper reporter.

"I'm sorry to have to do this, but the irresponsibility of the press gives me no alternative," Federal Judge Harold Green told the panel in a procedural session. The judge's order means that the jurors are not allowed contact with the outside world and cannot go home at night.

The special session was called after two jurors told the court they had been telephoned by reporters and asked about the case. (Reuter)

Another hearing set for Harris: A Federal Appeals Court on Tuesday set a May 14 hearing for convicted killer Robert Harris, whose latest appeal brought a last-minute halt to his scheduled execution in San Quentin's gas chamber.

If he had been put to death, Harris would have been the first prisoner executed in California in 23 years. Death penalty foes said that would have encouraged executions across the country.

The delay of Harris' execution drew angry criticism from state authorities, but relief from opponents of capital punishment. (Reuter)

Supervisors to discuss moon-Mars: The Bush administration was said ready to open talks with Moscow on a joint superpower moon-Mars mission.

But enthusiasts face large hurdles due to costs and residual wariness about Soviet intentions, analysts said in Washington on Tuesday.

A White House statement said the US-Soviet talks — which would later involve the US allies as well — will target "conceptual possibilities." It did not detail what those were.

Boosters of the joint moon-Mars project argue it would encourage more superpower co-operation. (Kuna)

Latin America

We'll return blow for blow: President Fidel Castro, comparing Cuba to the Biblical David fighting Goliath, said on Tuesday his country would fight blow for blow if a week-old electronic war with the United States escalated into a full-scale armed conflict.

"We are not going to stand around with our arms crossed... we will give blow for blow," Castro told a news conference in Havana attended by 236 Cuban and foreign journalists, 53 of them from the United States.

He condemned TV Marti, the US-founded news and entertainment channel being transmitted to the communist-ruled island since last Tuesday, as "a crude instrument of subversion and destabilisation." TV Marti has been jammed daily by Cuban technicians.

"This is an electronic war between David and Goliath," Castro said. He added that any attempted follow-up military strike by the United States against Cuba's electronic defences would unleash an all-out armed conflict.

Such a war would represent an "unpayable price" for the United States in terms of lost lives, Castro said. (Reuter)

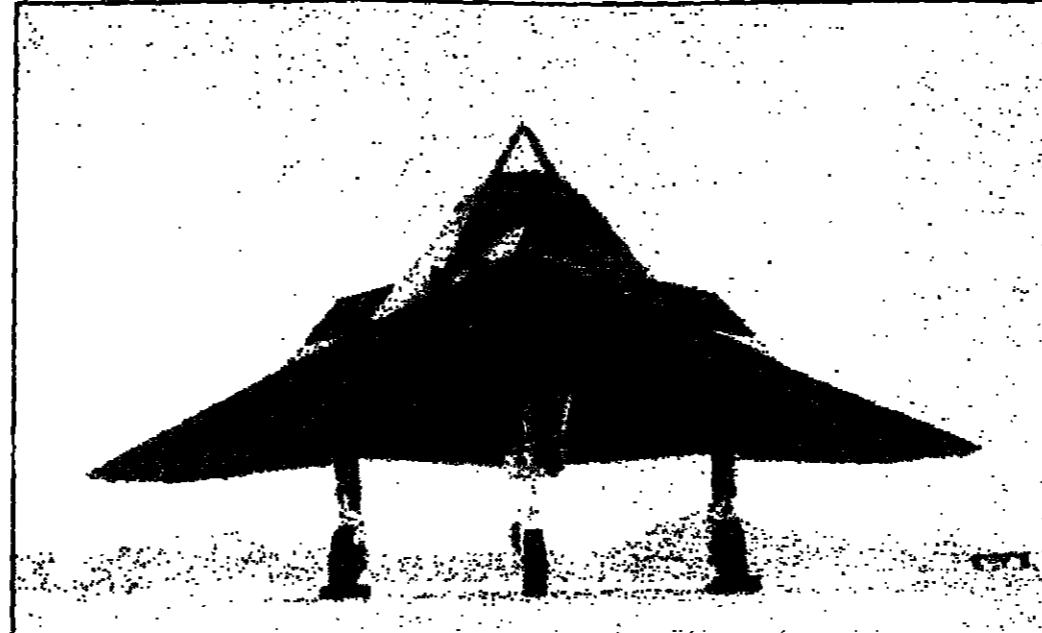
Cartel stepping up offensive: The kidnapping of a prominent senator and a wave of violence sweeping Colombia's cocaine capital of Medellin appear to have opened a new chapter in the country's bloody drug war.

Gunned-down Federico Estrada Velez, a 63-year-old senator of the ruling Liberal Party, out of his car when he stopped at a traffic light in Medellin on Tuesday morning, bundled him into another vehicle and sped off.

Estrada Velez, a former ambassador to Italy, had recently spoken out against dialogue with the drug barons, the police said.

No group had immediately claimed responsibility for the abduction, but police blamed the kidnapping and the separate shooting of seven police officers the drug barons who opened an offensive against the authorities last August.

The drug-traffickers, known as the "Extraditables," because they are wanted in the United States.



The United States officially unveiled its not-so-secret 'Stealth' fighter plane on Tuesday. The little black Air Force jet built to avoid enemy radar detection and costing \$106.2 million each is shown at Tonopah Test Range. (Reuter wirephoto)

Stealth secrets out
Fighter costs \$106m each

WASHINGTON, April 4. (UPI): The Pentagon released yesterday the first details of its long-secret F-117A Stealth fighter, disclosing that 34 of the radar-evading bat-like jets are ready for combat and that they cost \$106 million each.

The F-117A was designed to penetrate dense-threat environments and attack high-value targets with pinpoint accuracy. Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said. "It's especially tailored... for night missions."

Williams refused, however, to comment on a report that each F-117A can carry only one 2,000-pound (900 kg) laser-guided conventional bomb, and decline to say whether the fighters are nuclear-capable.

"The programme remains classified," Williams said. "It's able to carry the full range of tactical fighter ordnance. Beyond that, I don't think there's really much we can say at this point."

He said the Air Force bought 59 F-117As from the Lockheed Corp. under a secret \$6.25 billion programme that began in 1978. Three planes have crashed. The final two are to be delivered this fall, for a total force of 54.

The F-117s are assigned to the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing at Tonopah Test Range airfield, 140 miles (225 km) northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. The wing is scheduled to move this summer to Holloman Air Force base, New Mexico.

The Pentagon released a fact sheet on the plane, along with an 8 1/2-minute silent video of the aircraft taking off, landing and refuelling in flight, and several colour photographs of the awkward-looking fighter.

The F-117A will be publicly rolled out for view on April 21 at Nellis Air Force base, Nevada.

Man arrested
Cocaine in legs

MIAMI April 4. (UPI): A man carrying packets of cocaine inside badly infected surgical incisions in his legs was arrested during a routine drug interdiction programme, the US customs service said yesterday.

Agents detained Robert Julian O'Neil, 23, of Colombia, at the San Juan International Airport, Sunday after they observed him walking with stiff legs. Mamie Pollack, director of customs in San Juan, Puerto Rico, said.

O'Neil had just arrived on an Iberia airlines plane from Colombia and was awaiting a connecting flight to Madrid. Inspectors were observing passengers as part of "Operation Transit Pigeon" a programme to intercept drugs on their way from Colombia to Europe.

O'Neil was taken to a private room, where inspectors searched him and detected some bulges in his thighs, Pollack said. Agents thought the suspect had taped something to his legs inside his trousers.

But a closer inspection revealed that O'Neil had been inflicted incisions covered by stitches and strips of adhesive tape, she said.

O'Neil was taken to the Rio Piedras hospital in San Juan, where doctors removed the stitches and discovered one-half pound (226 g) of cocaine under the skin on each of his thighs, Pollack said.

"In more than 20 years with the US customs service, this is the most bizarre form of drug smuggling I have ever encountered or even heard about," Pollack said.

threatened last Saturday to explode huge bombs in the capital every time one of their number was extricated.

They also pledged to execute politicians, judges and members of a prominent newspaper family. (Reuter)

Salvador truce: The Salvador government and leftist guerrillas on Wednesday accepted a series of United Nations-sponsored measures designed to restore peace to the Central American state.

The two sides' meeting for the first time in six months, signed a seven-point document prepared by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar foreseeing a UN-supervised truce in the 10-year war as a first step toward a negotiated peace.

"I have received assurances from both parties that there is a serious intention and good faith to seek to bring about such an end through negotiations," Perez de Cuellar said in the document endorsed by the two sides.

Guinea-Bissau's president, Joao Bernardo Vieira, has agreed to mediate in the dispute.

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Guinea-Bissau

Accord on E. German coalition

CDU leader Lothar de Maiziere to lead cabinet

EAST BERLIN, April 4. (Agencies): East German political parties agreed to form the country's first non-communist government today, with Christian Democratic (CDU) leader Lothar de Maiziere as prime minister.

Martin Kirchner, party general secretary, said De Maiziere should be elected prime minister at the head of a coalition when the 400-seat new Parliament meets for the first time tomorrow.

"We are sure that the negotiations will be completed today and agreement reached on a coalition," Kirchner told a meeting of CDU party officials in East Berlin.

But no party has an absolute majority in the Parliament, which once served simply as a rubber stamp for the hardline communist authorities quoted last year in a peaceful revolution.

The CDU needs SPD support to push through changes to the constitution and take East Germany down the road to unification with West Germany.

Main political groups agreed yesterday to try to resolve their differences over unification with West Germany.

The alliance for Germany held a crucial negotiation session with the Social Democratic Party, which finished second.

Party leaders said afterward they agreed on a framework for talks that they said they expected would result in a governing coalition by April 15.

They agreed to break up into small groups and discuss the issues that divide them, particularly the pace of reunification.

The talks, aimed at forging a "grand coalition" that crosses the conservative and liberal political spectrum, were held after East Germany's disparate political factions suddenly united this week to demand that West Germany give equal value to East German marks during the unification process.

The development follows the resignation of the Social Democrats leader, Ibrahim Boehme, amid allegations he had links to the Stasi secret police during the era of hardline communist rule in East Germany.

The controversy surrounding Boehme had hampered the negotiations, and the Social Democrats said that Boehme, who denies the accusations, was stepping aside because the task clearing his name could burden efforts to form East Germany's first democratic government.

Unification talks with West Germany are temporarily on hold while the newly elected East German parliament chooses new leaders to replace the caretaker communist government.

Social Democratic officials began the meeting with alliance for Germany negotiators yesterday afternoon. Officials from the tiny Free Democratic Party also were participating in the coalition talks.

Rainer Eppelmann, leader of Democratic Awakening, one of three parties in the alliance for Germany, said he was hoping for a quick agreement "so people in East Germany know where they stand."

Just hours earlier Markus Meckel, who has temporarily replaced Boehme as head of the Social Democrats, announced the party had agreed to open negotiations with the alliance on forming a coalition government. ■ Ousted communist leader Erich Honecker's health has worsened and he was moved yesterday to a Soviet-run sanatorium, a West German newspaper reported.

A Soviet military convoy escorted the former leader and his wife, Margot, from the Parish House outside East Berlin where they had been staying to the nearby sanatorium, the newspaper Bild said.

The move was requested by Honecker, Bild reported. It said without attribution that the 77-year-old Honecker's health has further deteriorated.

The move came slightly more than a week after Honecker and his wife were forced to abandon their new home.

They moved from the Lutheran church Parish House on March 23 to a better-equipped government residence near Neuruppin, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) away.

Gorbachev's spokesman holds briefing

MOSCOW, April 4. (Agencies): Mikhail S. Gorbachev's first presidential spokesman, Arkady A. Maslenikov, held his first briefing yesterday, beginning what has been an institution at the White House for years.

"First of all, I'm not a Fitzwater," he said referring to his US counterpart, Martin Fitzwater, as he stood in front of a large portrait of Lenin.

Maslenikov, a 58-year-old former foreign correspondent for the Communist Party daily, Pravda, told correspondents about the work of Gorbachev's new presidential and federation councils and answered questions about the Soviet president's policy toward the breakaway Baltic republic of Lithuania.

He promised regular, but not daily, briefings geared to particular topics, and said Gorbachev himself would appear from time to time for news conferences.

Reformer elected Bulgaria President

SOFIA, April 4. (AP): Parliament yesterday elected reformer Petar Mladenov to a newly created temporary presidency and adopted legislation permitting multiparty elections in June.

In an apparent effort to distance themselves from their hardline past, communists yesterday also renamed their communist party to Bulgarian Socialist Party.

The party's name change was announced by Stefan Prodev, editor of the former Communist Party daily Rabotnicheskata Delo, or workers' affairs, which changed its name Monday to the Duma, or the word.

Terms of the first free, multiparty elections in Bulgaria since World War II, and Mladenov's election to the new presidency, were agreed to last week between the ruling communists and the opposition.

They were ratified by Parliament yesterday along with constitutional amendments abolishing all references to "communist" and "socialist," which serve to anchor political pluralism, the state BTA news Agency reported.

Mladenov, 53, had served as the communist president of the state council that was formally dissolved yesterday. He was unanimously elected to the new temporary presidency, and will be replaced after the newly elected Parliament approves a new constitution.

In his acceptance address, Mladenov said the guaranteeing of the peaceful transition from totalitarianism to democracy "is the most important and the most complicated task at this stage," BTA reported.

He said Bulgaria's first test of democracy would be the June elections.

"People should be provided with conditions to have their fair and open say, proceeding from their own aspirations and acting on their own free will on the future they prefer for (Bulgaria)," the official BTA news agency quoted Mladenov as saying.

He also said that implementation of a radical economic reform would require "tremendous efforts."

"There are consultations and conversations," Deputy Egidius Bickauskas told reporters yesterday. "Don't call them negotiations."

Politburo member Alexander Yakovlev, a confidant of Gorbachev, met with Ozolas and two Lithuanian legislators, Bickauskas said. He did not reveal where the meeting was held.

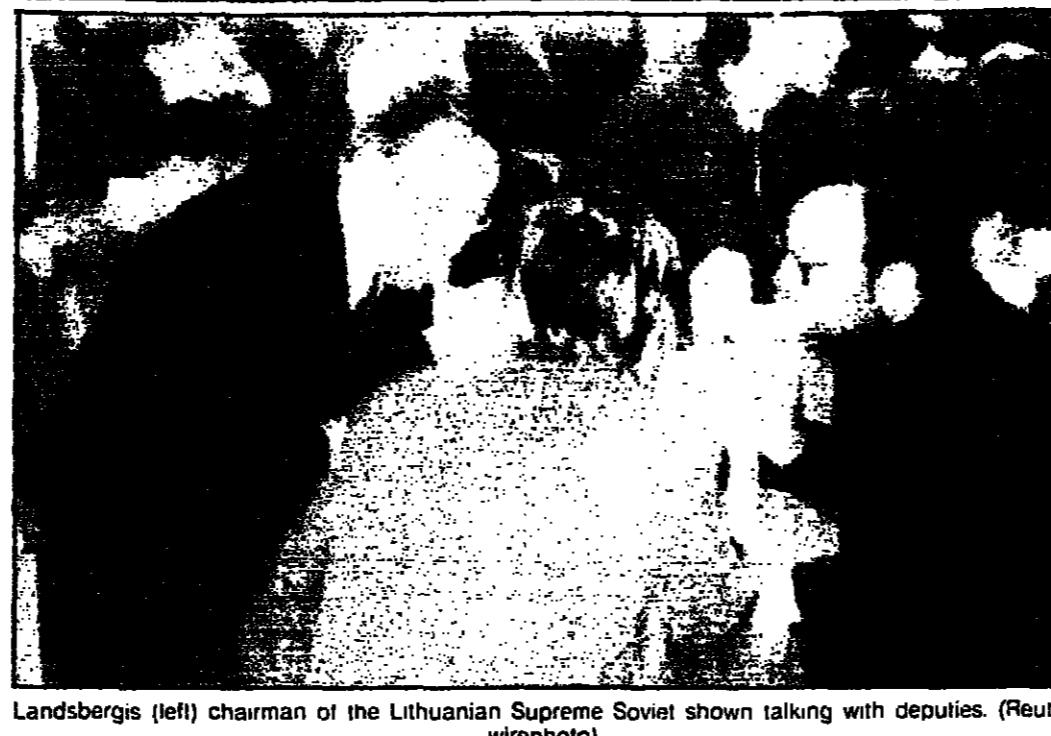
"Nothing was accomplished," said Loretta Stanulis, commenting yesterday's talks between a three-man Lithuanian delegation and Yakovlev.

"The main goal of these informal talks was to

The announcement was a major surprise after coalition talks between the CDU-led alliance of centre-right parties and the Social Democrats (SPD) had initially stalled.

But yesterday the parties made early progress in the first formal round of talks. They said they expected to form a government by the middle of this month.

The approval of cabinet posts would be handled by a second meeting of Parliament on April 11. Kirchner said the CDU won by far the most votes in East Germany's first free elections on March 10, with the SPD coming a poor second.



Landsbergis (left) chairman of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet shown talking with deputies. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shevardnadze in US

'Honest talks main weapon'

WASHINGTON, April 4. (AP): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, in Washington for meetings with top US leaders, says "honest dialogue" is Moscow's main weapon in dealing with the independence crisis in Lithuania.

Speaking to reporters at Andrews Air Force Base yesterday, Shevardnadze said his government believes that it is important to maintain the integrity of the Soviet constitution and Soviet laws in the face of the challenge represented by the Lithuanian independence movement.

Declaring that Lithuania also approved the Soviet Constitution, Shevardnadze added: "We are going to act within the framework of our constitution, within the basic law of our country."

"Our main weapon in resolving any issue...is dialogue, honest dialogue," he said and added:

"And this is the dialogue we are looking forward to with the Lithuanian people and the Lithuanian leadership."

Meanwhile, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Soviet actions in Lithuania will be "at the top of the agenda" when Shevardnadze meets Secretary of State James A. Baker today. He is set to see President George Bush on Friday.

The United States has repeatedly called on the Soviets not to use coercion, intimidation or military force in Lithuania.

Shevardnadze assured Baker during a meeting in Namibia last month that the Kremlin would do its utmost to avoid using force to suppress the independence movement in Lithuania.

Baker subsequently sent a message to Shevardnadze and Bush wrote Gorbatchev. Neither has received a reply, but US officials said that was not a cause for concern.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Draftees to form army support staff

GCC manufacture of weapons studied

THE military obligatory service in Kuwait is a pioneer experiment, though the application of the service has been instituted with some delay, the former Chief of Staff of Kuwait Army, Lt. General Abdulla Farraj Al Ghaniem said.

The official said that the aim of the military service is to form a supportive army for the full fledged Kuwaiti Army and added

that the command of the army has plans to establish a reserve force comprising Kuwaitis who finish their military obligatory service.

On the issue of women conscripts, he said that there are some women employed in the secretariat, computer services and medical fields. However, he said that it is not opportune at this time to involve women in the

military staff for fighting or conducting sensitive military operations. He added that women should be trained in the art of manning weapons as back-up in the forces.

Speaking as the secretary of

military production in the GCC states, Ghaniem said that the concept of manufacturing weapons and ammunitions in the GCC states was discussed and studied.

Officials have been advised according to findings of the study not to make haste, as weapons production is a highly complex and vital project. However, he said that the GCC states can start manufacturing training ammunitions and light weapons and from there expand the manufacturing to more sophisticated technology.

He also called to unifying

weapons used by the armies of the GCC states and added that joint manoeuvres of the GCC states should be carried out by land, air and navy forces.

Ghaniem complained that the number of youths who join the Kuwait Army are negligible and said that the army is in need of every able bodied youth, including those with scientific qualifications.

66 licences granted to citizens for haj convoys

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Pilgrimage and Mosque Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdulrahman Al Fares was quoted as saying that the ministry had given licences to about 66 citizens to arrange for pilgrimage convoys during the current year.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that about 42 convoys will go to Makkah Al Mukarramah via Madina Al Munawara while another 24 convoys will go direct from Kuwait to Makkah Al Mukarramah.

He disclosed that 12 citizens were being given the licence for the first time and this measure was taken in response to the country's exceeding needs for pilgrimage convoys. He added that the ministry had decided to increase the insurance for pilgrimage convoys from KD8000 to KD10,000.

The official said that the Kuwaiti convoys will go through two routes through Al Salemi Area and will be divided into 16 groups. The convoys that will go to Madina will leave Kuwait between June 12 and 15 while the other convoys who go direct to Makkah will leave during the period of June 20 to 23, 1990.

Charges

In a related development a local daily reported that a number of pilgrimage convoy owners had agreed to unify pilgrimage charges this year, provided that the unified charge will include all accommodation and full boarding expenses.

The daily quoted the chairman of the committee grouping 31 convoys Lafi Al Orair who had unified its charges as saying that this was taken in the light of retreat in the pilgrimage charges. He added that owners of the relevant convoys were in agreement that the best way to avoid such a retreat is to unify the charges and in the meantime to enhance the services to be extended.

He disclosed that the unified charges were as follows: Suburban van of seven passengers KD350 for each passenger, bus KD300, micro-bus KD280, GMC vehicle of 40 passengers KD260. But for pilgrims who would like to go by his own car to Makkah and Madina and registered with convoy will pay the convoy KD250 and those who would like to go to Makkah only will pay KD150 and those who would like to go by air to Makkah via Jeddah should pay KD200 and those who would like to go to Madina and Makkah will pay KD250.

Meanwhile, Orair confirmed the keenness of the owners of 31 convoys to extend the best services to the pilgrims to be represented by ambulances and good quality of transport vehicles.

16,000 fresh graduates could face unemployment

EXISTING factors indicate that Kuwait's Civil Service Council will be pressed hard to provide employment to 16,000 graduates during the next two years, a local daily reported.

The job scenario becomes further complicated when one views the fact that graduates strive to obtain office jobs rather than those in the field. Presently there are a lot of graduates who currently work in the computer field, although they have graduated from the faculty of arts, the daily said.

It added that there are about 8,000 students studying currently at the university and who are expected to graduate during the next two years. This figure will coincide with an identical number of students from the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (Paaet).

With the recent decision to equate grades of the university and those of Paaet, the authorities will face with another problem, the daily noted.



Operators at the overseas calls department.

MOC officials admit to phone eavesdropping

Ulterior motives denied

OFFICIALS and employees of the Ministry of Communications, admitting that they resort to eavesdropping, explained that this is resorted to only with the aim of ensuring that telephone calls are operating at optimum efficiency and denied any ulterior motives.

Controller of overseas calls at the ministry, Fahd Al Fahd said that there are several parties who have access to telephone lines and listen on calls and underscored the fact that there is no country that does not use this

method for one purpose or another.

However, in Kuwait, the official said that such eavesdropping has been restricted to senior officials only — usually the shift-incharge and deputies. In a further move designed to reduce the misuse of this facility, "tapping devices" have been reduced from 114 to only four.

Punishment

Fahd said that he does not claim that ministry employees are innocent of intentional eavesdropping, but these instances are few and called on aggrieved parties to report such incidents and assured that strict punishment will be accorded to those found guilty.

However, Fahd called on subscribers to check the quality of the commercial telephone sets as in many instances it was found that the telephone sets, particularly when the set is of sub-standard quality. Nevertheless, he said that subscribers should specifically mention the date and time that they suspected their line was tapped.



Assistance appeal

The mayor of Beit Sahour, in the Israeli occupied West Bank, Hanna Al Atrash (left), and the accompanying delegation are in Kuwait to appeal for urgent assistance to their village which faces starvation at the hands of Israeli authorities.

AMC undertakes projects in Africa

37 countries benefit from charity

THE chairman of African Muslims Committee (AMC) Dr Abdul Rahman Al Sumait has said that the committee built 680 mosques, 960 offices and Quran schools and 38 health centres in 37 African countries. He added that AMC dug 600 underground water wells and hundreds of surface wells in the dried areas in Africa. The committee is sponsoring and maintaining 8,500 Muslim orphans and thousands of refugees. School tuitions of 55,000 poor pupils in Africa, were also defrayed by the committee, the official said.

Quran

He added that AMC is an Islamic institution that tries to offer services by carrying out new charitable projects. The committee is not involved in politics and serves the Muslim community in village or city by building schools, health centres and mosques.

The workers in the committee are volunteers with only 6 regular employees working in the AMC's main office in Kuwait (full time) beside 19 volunteers and some employees who work part-time.

The committee distributed about 100,000 copies of holy Quran and 4.5 million Islamic books in different African languages. It also organised more than 114 training and qualifying courses for teachers and imams of mosques at African villages including medical courses. The committee distributed more than 70,000 tonnes of foodstuffs and medicine as well as hundreds of thousands of clothes. We also make monthly payments to 1,850 teachers and imams in Africa. He added that hundreds of thousands of Africans embraced Islam as a result of efforts of teachers and imams although priority is not given to call for Islam among non-Muslims. "We focus on teaching African Muslims their correct Islam according to instructions of Holy Quran and Sunnah," Sumait said. He added, "We succeeded to reach many far areas in which isolated Muslims are living. Most of the people are illiterate and do not know the right Islam and are close to paganism than to Islam. We gave these people special concern to return them to Islam. We also organised tens of camps and conferences for women and youths beside establishing several cultural and sporting clubs."

Co-op prices to be controlled: Swarej

No increase during Ramadan

consumer articles is a decision made by the relevant government officials and that the reduction or resumption of this subsidy changed with the circumstances and changes of the relevant government strategy.

He pointed out that the Consumer Protection Department has issued a number of rules to govern any illegal increase in commodity prices, in order to protect consumers against haphazard individual price increases. Consumers who believe that the prices of certain commodities have undergone unjustifiable increases are urged to co-operate with the department and report these violations so that the necessary action could be taken.

The union, the official said, has a special team of inspectors who pay regular visits to cooperative societies to check the validity of assorted items and those stored in the societies warehouses, pointing out that some societies have their own inspectors who regularly carry out routine check of the items on display.

THE chairman of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies Saad Abbad Al Swarej has said that the union is currently preparing a study aimed at developing the existing control over all commodities available at the co-operative societies, in co-operation with the competent authorities.

A recently-issued circular required all societies not to accept any price increases made without previous notification from the union, the official said.

Circular

He said that the existing crowds of customers raising the demand for commodities commonly sought during the holy month of Ramadan is caused by the abundance of these items at these societies stressing the co-operative movement's concern to make available all consumer items and commodities during this period.

He told a local daily that all items under the union's control undergo no price increases due to the pegging of these prices by the union's pricing committee. He

said that the existing crowds of customers raising the demand for commodities commonly sought during the holy month of Ramadan is caused by the abundance of these items at these societies stressing the co-operative movement's concern to make available all consumer items and commodities during this period.

Competition has also increased among the commercial banks in the Gulf area and banks in the Arab area in general should co-ordinate efforts to have a firm stand against the international challenges, Yahia said.

The chairman of Bank of Kuwait and Middle East Ali Al Bader said that local banks should continue in their policies to guide spendings and increase efficiency of their staff and performance and should develop their training programmes as well. The local banks are required to carry out the recommendations of the report of joint economic committee to face challenge during present decade, the official commented.

The well-known Kuwaiti economist Jassim Al Saadoun said that local banks should solve two main problems, the deficit in their financial abilities and the weak administrative staff.

The local banks except the National Bank suffer from deficit that prompts the Central Bank to intervene in all details of their duties and thus, these banks to develop their structure to be more independent from Central Bank.

He added that administration of local banks did not change despite the crisis that faced Kuwaiti banks during the last few years. He commented that the administration of these banks are under the required levels.

The administrative staff at banks are being appointed according to social considerations and not professional ones or qualifications and Kuwaiti banks will not be able to compete in the field of financial investment with foreign establishments due to the deficit in the financial and administrative structure of these banks, the official said.

The government can change this structure and develop or improve the performance of the banks by many ways. It can apply a limited development strategy for all banks and financial establishments in the country. It also can improve the performance of its financial establishments and use the great surplus to develop and improve sufficiency of banks by giving these surpluses to active banks, Saadoun said.

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Meet a neighbour



Sheikha Nashmiya ... rare sophistication.

Patriot with a passion for art

Call to preserve indigenous traditions

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

SHEIKHA NASHMIYA Al Ahmed's patriotic passion for Kuwait and another for collecting antiques is a dominant feature of her daily life. The regal bearing of the personage of Sheikha Nashmiya vividly depicts a strong personality which she candidly attributes to her father, the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Ahmed Al Jaber and in her relationship to her brother the present Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed.

In a broader context Sheikha Nashmiya nurtures patriotic feelings that have been instilled since her childhood. This has shaped and prompted her love in collecting Kuwaiti antiques to preserve her country's heritage.

Her collection of Kuwaiti antiques include chests and silver swords which are cleverly displayed in different corners in her house. Apart from that are Sadu cushions placed on sofas and seats. For her each antique she owns has a story to tell...

For Sheikha Nashmiya her

love of collecting antiques extends to possess rare pieces of art and furniture from all over the world such as India, Turkey and France.

At her house antiques vary from vases and paintings to embroidered table cloths with gold seam covering wooden trunks that belonged to late King Farouq of Egypt and other chinas plates of the same era are used as decoration on the walls in her dining room.

Responsibility

Many paintings she owns are of famous artists displayed in her house along with old coins inside show cases next to certificates of authenticity.

Sheikha Nashmiya exudes confidence and sophistication which is evidenced in her continued efforts in presiding over public functions for women at all levels of activities in the country. At the same time she encourages women that love of one's country can be passed on through generations to preserve that unfaded patriotic feeling.

UAE oil minister in India

ABU DHABI, April 4, (Kuna): United Arab Emirates Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Mani Said Al Otaiba yesterday left here for New Delhi to deliver a message to Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh from UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Otaiba had met with Indian ambassador to the UAE and discussed with him co-operation relations between the two countries particularly in fields of petroleum, before his departure.

THE NEW INDIAN SCHOOL JABRIYA Experienced Teachers

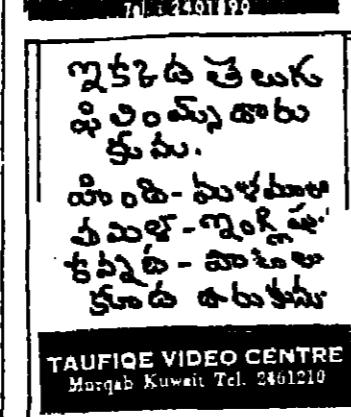
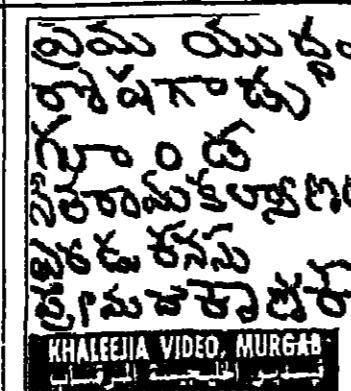
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Applicants not having transferable visa should apply. Applications on prescribed form (obtainable from school office) must reach the school by 14th April, 1990, in envelopes marked "Application for Teaching Post".

ADMINISTRATOR



Drop in budget deficit predicted

Rationalisation of spending successful

THE existing deficit in the national budget for the fiscal year 91/92 will reportedly undergo a tangible drop due to the careful financial policy employed by the government to rationalise spending.

A local daily quoted an official source as saying that the government will provide, as usual, special budgetary allocations for the employment of Kuwaiti graduates from the various local universities and institutes. On this issue the Minister of Finance Jasem Al Khorafi has held a series of

meetings with top government officials to discuss the government's future strategy regarding the projects and plans proposed for the years to come.

The source added that the returns of public revenues, although were spent to fund the development of existing public services and facilities.

The difficult loan settlement programme receives the greater share of government concern and that there is great response and co-operation in this regard

from all involved parties, which led to the settlement of the greater part of this problem, the official said.

He added that Kuwait's recommendations to the Organisation of Economic Unity submitted to the organisation secretary-general was reportedly under implementation.

He commented that Kuwait's stand was clear in seeking to sort out existing functional duplication, pointing out that the economic and social council was performing

the same duties, stressing that Kuwait paid 28 per cent of the total budget of the council.

He said that the cost of the new petrochemical factory will reach KD600 million, adding that the cost is expected to increase upto three billion dollars.

The projects will consist of eight factors, and will utilise naphtha and natural gas as raw feed for the production of polyethylene and ethylene glycol, and other armatures.

\$2m cash support to intifada

HEAD of the Aid Committee for Palestine and Lebanon, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Falah has stated that the committee presented two million dollars in cash to support the uprising (intifada) of the Palestinian people. He added that an additional one and a half million was presented for the support of charity projects in Palestine. He stressed that the committee works to preserve Islam's holy sites in Palestine and is keen to establish a number of mosques, health centres, schools and social centres. He pointed out that the Mohajereen and Ansar project aims at reviving the picture of solidarity and Islamic brotherhood. He indicated that the committee has many projects to offer and called for the support of good people.

He stated that these projects include Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, and the Palestine committee has established the Faith Clinic inside Jerusalem and another health centre in the Arab part of Jerusalem. Both centres include a mental clinic and medical laboratories the official said. The committee also provides medical equipment to the Ansar clinic in Jerusalem and bought two ambulances for the interest of Nablus and Tulkarem committees.

He indicated that a number of doctors and nurses visit the areas to introduce health services to people living in camps and towns.

UAE releases over 250 prisoners

RAS AL KHAIMAH, April 4, (Kuna): Members of UAE's Supreme Council and ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, Sheikh Saad Bin Mohammed Al Qasemi, yesterday ordered the release of 144 prisoners.

Ras Al Khaimah's police commander Sheikh Sultan Bin Salem Al Qasemi said that the decree comes within the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan.

In a similar measure, the ruler of Umm Al Quwain, Sheikh Rashed Bin Ahmad Al Moa'la, has ordered the release of 14 prisoners.



Education exhibit

The Education Minister Anwar Al Nouri opened recently an exhibit of special education products at the permanent exhibit's premises at the Capital Educational Area. The opening was attended by assistant undersecretaries and senior officials of the ministry. Minister Nouri inspected the contents of the exhibit which were produced by pupils of special education schools. The exhibit is open everyday from 8 to 11 am and from 9 pm to midnight. The exhibit will be opened till April 12th. Picture shows Nouri and assistant undersecretaries inspecting the exhibit.

Mergers may be beneficial

Banks will overcome debt crisis, says Awadi

By Mahmoud Abdeen

THE chief of general and executive managers at Kuwait's Gulf Bank Dr Yusuf Abdullah Al Awadi was quoted as saying that the local banking sector will witness a new era in the wake of surmounting bad debts.

In an interview with the daily Al Seyassat, Awadi said that such an era will provide a lot of opportunities in addition to upgrading human resources.

He commented that the Municipality will enforce this system as soon as possible and that the related public transactions submitted by citizens will be processed as soon as the relevant ministerial decision and related provisions appear in the official gazette.

System

He said that the acting director-general of the Municipality Sabah Jaber Al-Ali has issued an administrative decision regarding the executive and planning measures required for approving the utilisation of real estate, such as flats, in the shopping and investment areas.

Owners, individuals or companies, wishing to sell according to the system of flats and storeys, must consult the Municipality for its technical counsel from the planning viewpoint, before proceeding with selling formalities.

He said that the planning opinion will be effective for one year from the date of its issue, adding that the owners will have to submit applications to the Department of Control and Follow-up for defining the sought real estate based on the enforced system of flats and storeys, to which the technical opinion must be attached.

effective market powers to play its natural role which will eventually lead either to liquidate such powers or to get them merged.

He expressed the conviction that the structure of the country's financial sector should be reviewed in a new spirit in order to reorganise this sector. He commented that the merger will constitute one of the ideal vehicles for strengthening the financial base, clarifying that the merger process will not apply on the banks only but it could be realised through the merging of the banks and financial and investment companies in addition to the merger of some local investment companies.

The merger process could also encompass the insurance sector in order to set up more effective avenues to serve such a sector.

Speaking of the inter-bank relations, the official described this relation as governed by the co-operative spirit and reciprocal confidence, adding that the local banks were embodying its co-operation through the Kuwait Banking Society and in sound competitive

atmosphere which was guaranteed by the economic liberal system prevailing in the country.

Replying to a question about the setting up of the investment banks, the official commented that investment banks are not available in Kuwait although the relevant activities and functions were familiar to the local banking sector as well as the investment companies mostly cover these investment functions and activities.

He clarified that practically there was a form of investment banks which could be represented by the local investment companies as well as the investment departments available in each local bank, as these companies and departments were undertaking the managing of investment portfolios for customers in addition to marketing of bonds and other financial securities in addition to their contribution in the financial and trusts' markets.

Commenting on the banking classification adopted recently by Basel Committee, the official described such a classification as prejudicial and unfair, clarifying that the classification was biased.

Health Day, April 7

KUWAIT, April 4, (Kuna): Kuwait is to observe on April 7 World Health Day together with Kuwait's Health Week under the auspices of His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.

Under the motto "Our Health and Environment" the week's activities will include enlightenment campaigns and lectures to be organised by the national organising committee in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, Kuwait Municipality, the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources and the Ministry of Health.

Sheep prices increase

Butchers complain of unsympathetic consumers

THE local market for Australian sheep is in a confused state as during the last few days the prices of live Australian sheep were increased from KD15 to KD16.500 by the Kuwaiti Livestock Company (KLC).

In this context, merchants called for reconsidering the prices of meat that are determined by the Ministry of Commerce - specifically because Australian sheep in summer usually arrive with less weight which causes huge losses to butchers who are obliged to sell for 750 fils per kilo. They added that the KLC sells sheep to butchers at the same price whether they are heavy or light.

A butcher, Sayed Hamada said that sudden increase in prices of sheep that are imported from Australia directly affects butchers who are obliged to increase their prices. But, consumers do not understand this aspect, or are not willing to understand, he said and they continually accuse butchers of increasing their prices to gain

more profits.

He added that KLC increases prices of livestock for four months a year that begins in March. During this period the sheep are light in weight and selling these sheep at the standard prices results in losses to butchers. He added that butchers sell the small sizes of sheep while co-operatives sell larger varieties and consequently, co-operatives can sell at cheaper prices. Additionally, he said that the absence of Turkish frozen sheep has led to an increase in prices of Australian sheep.

However, Dr Sayed Amara pointed out that KLC increased its prices because of a hike in the international prices and that prices of live sheep have been witnessing a steady and continual increase. The official said that the municipality and Ministry of Commerce should set up a joint committee to determine the maximum level of prices for live sheep as is specified for slaughtered sheep. He said that the price

of slaughtered sheep has remained unchanged for quite some time.

Shariif Rizk said that sudden hike in prices of Australian sheep brings losses to both butcher and consumer. Before the increase butchers were competing with each other because they had a chance to reduce their prices by 50 per cent. But now butchers sell for 750 fils a kilo in order not to suffer losses. He added that increase of prices of the livestock is mainly caused because KLC has a monopoly on the import of live sheep.

Meanwhile, the chairman of KLC, Faisal Al Khizam attributed the increase of price of Australian sheep to the fact that sheep sold have suitable prices compared to their weight. The costs of purchase and transportation have also increased. Commenting on the monopoly enjoyed by KLC in the local meat market, he said that this accusation is false because Kuwait is an open market and anybody who wants to import livestock can.

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Thought for today

THE greater the difficulty, the greater the glory — Cicero, Roman statesman-philosopher (106 BC-43 BC).

Handling of Namibia UN scores big success

WINDHOEK, Namibia, (AP): After numerous missions that floundered, the United Nations scored a major success in guiding Namibia to independence and also learned several key lessons for future operations in troubled regions.

The year-long effort by the United Nations Transition Assistance Group, or Untag, was one of the largest and most expensive undertaken by the United Nations. It overcame several crises that threatened to derail the independence plan for Namibia, which South Africa ruled for 75 years.

Applause

As the UN withdraws from the vast, arid nation, it is receiving sustained applause from Namibians and other countries involved. Residents hosted farewell parties at UN offices around the new country, sometimes slaughtering sheep and oxen for the celebration.

"Untag will forever be remembered by our people," said Namibia's new Foreign Minister, Theo-Ben Gurirab. "There are Namibian children named Untag."

But in contrast to the Namibian operation, other major UN missions have been ineffective or dragged on inconclusively in Lebanon, Cyprus, Iran and Iraq, and the disputed Kashmir region of India and Pakistan, where trouble still flares despite a UN presence dating to the 1940s.

Even in Namibia, the UN effort almost collapsed the day it began, April 1, 1989.

Only about 1,000 of the 7,900 UN civilian and military personnel were in place, and guerrillas of the South-West Africa People's Organisation crossed from Angola into northern Namibia in violation of the independence plan. That ignited three weeks of fighting with the South Africa-led security forces while the UN peacekeeping forces were largely impotent.

"The entire mission could have been aborted," said UN spokesman Fred Eckhard. "It took us months to scramble out of that hole and restore confidence."

Occupation

Some Namibians saw the UN as a "new army of occupation," replacing the South Africans, Eckhard said. South Africans and the competing factions in Namibia all accused the UN of partiality at different stages. Field workers were threatened or intimidated by various parties, and one station was bombed, killing a private security guard.

After peace was restored, the UN had to repatriate more than 43,000 Namibians from 40 countries and supervise an election where most of the 1.3 million people were illiterate and had never voted.

It also was a new experience for many of the UN personnel, moved from desk jobs in New York or Geneva to villages in the African bush. Field workers faced a variety of problems, not all of them related to Namibia's independence.

"The local Untag stations became a place to bring one's problems — people even south for marital disputes," Eckhard said.

South Africa threatened to cancel the elections only days before they were to take place last November, claiming UN radio traffic was reporting an infiltration by Swapo guerrillas. South Africa soon withdrew its allegations, but suspicions remained.

Seven political parties, led by Swapo, captured seats in the polls, which had a 97 per cent voter turnout and were universally praised as free and fair.

Trained

"We effectively trained hundreds (of UN personnel) for politically delicate field missions and learned quite a lot about how to respond in tense situations," the UN spokesman said.

In future missions, the UN is likely to send more policemen and civilians and fewer soldiers when involved in election monitoring, he said.

The original UN contingent included 4,650 soldiers and 500 policemen. But an additional 1,000 police were sent as it became apparent they were best as monitor elections, the spokesman added.

The UN also took over social services that had been provided by Namibia's territorial army, such as health care, teaching school and delivering food to remote villages, Eckhard said.

By the time independence day arrived Mar 21, Namibia's rival political parties had agreed unanimously to a democratic constitution and joined in calling for national reconciliation after 23 years of war.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1594 — Jean Chastel, pupil of the Jesuits, attempts to assassinate France's King Henry IV.

1664 — Peace Treaty of Westminster ends first Anglo-Dutch war.

1794 — French revolutionaries G. J. Danton and Camille Desmoulins are executed.

1826 — Russian ultimatum to Turkey over Serbia and Danubian provinces.

1881 — Britain concludes Treaty of Pretoria with Boers, recognizing independence of South African republic of Transvaal.

1886 — Abdul Hamid II, sultan of Turkey, appoints Alexander of Bulgaria as governor of Eastern Rumelia.

1939 — All German children between ages of 10 and 13 are ordered to serve in Hitler youth organization.

1946 — Soviet Union agrees to withdraw troops from Iran on promise of reforms in Azerbaijan.

1951 — Julius and Ethel Rosenberg of New York City are sentenced to death as atomic spies for Soviet Union.

1958 — Fidel Castro begins "total war" against Batista government in Cuba.

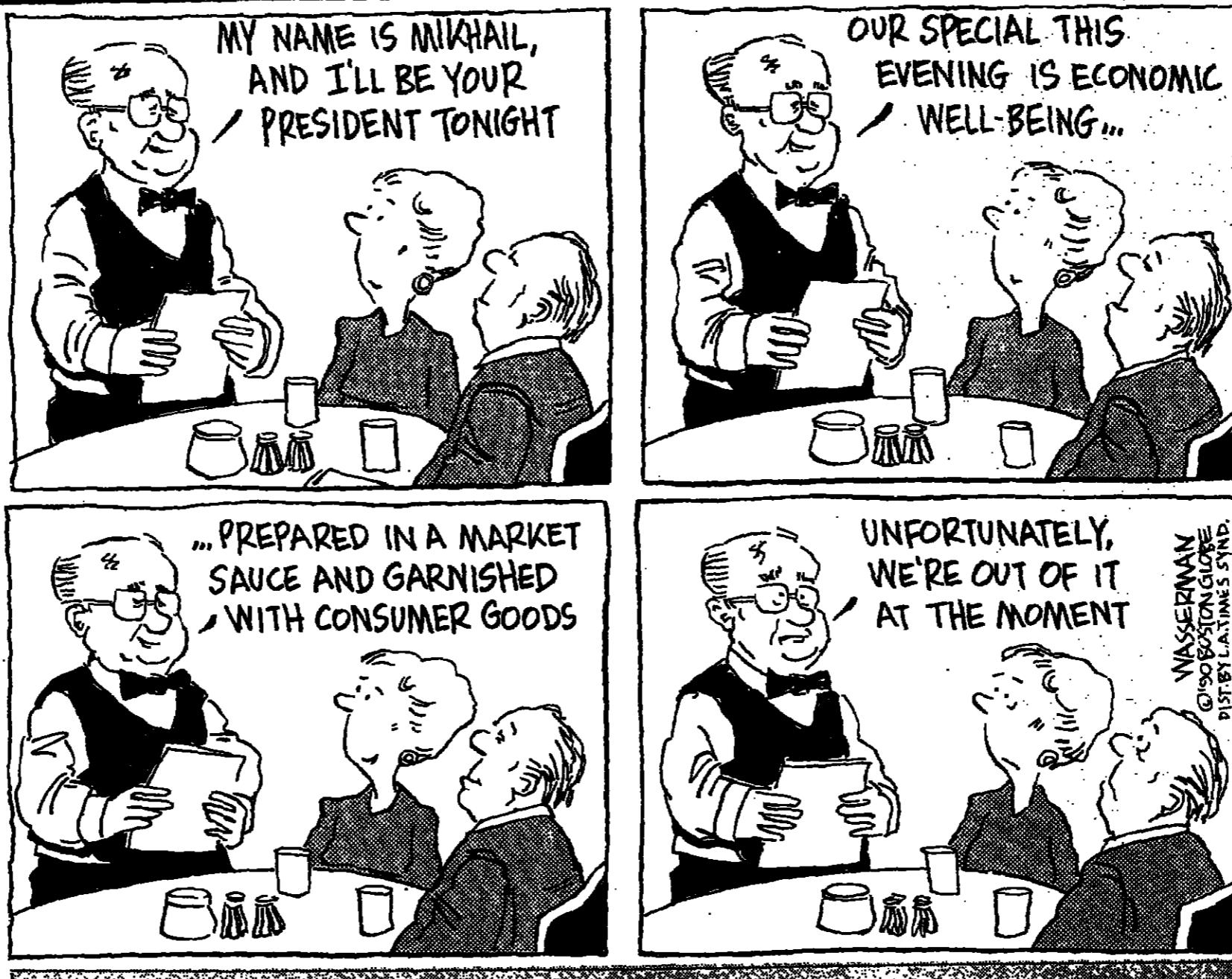
1969 — Four-man British expedition reaches North Pole after 14-month, 1,300-mile (2,000 km) trek by dog sled.

1971 — Pakistan airlifts foreigners from East Pakistan as fighting rages during a revolt.

1986 — Bomb, blamed on terrorists, kills two and injures 155 as it rips through crowded West Berlin discotheque popular with US soldiers.

1988 — Arabic-speaking hijackers commandeer Kuwaiti Airways plane with 112 people aboard and force it to land in Iran.

1989 — Vietnam announces it will withdraw all its troops from Cambodia by Sept 30 to encourage political settlement of the 10-year-old conflict.



Letters to the editor

Oil market

SIR: Some oil observers have voiced concern about how to secure the necessary financing for expanding production capacity so as to meet the expected increase in demand between now and the end of the century and maintain a margin of flexibility that lends stability to world markets.

The oil exporting countries have on many occasions expressed their willingness to produce the quantities required for world economic growth. They have backed up their statements with concrete plans for expanding production capacity and increasing exports. These countries have sufficient oil reserves to last for many decades. Opec reserves in 1989 totalled 600 billion barrels, compared with only 340 billion in 1980. Moreover, there is a high probability that more discoveries will be made, because exploration efforts are still in the early stages in most Opec member countries — a fact that is well-known to everyone concerned with the oil industry.

Expanding

We do not believe that securing the finances for expanding the production capacity of exporting countries is an insurmountable difficulty, despite the differences in their financial positions. Some are able to finance their own projects, while others require outside financing. However, so long as the reserves exist, financing should not pose a problem, even if it be from foreign sources. Capital always flows to safe and profitable investments.

The real obstacle to expanding production capacity is uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries will fare. Oil markets are still swayed heavily by transient factors and long-term consumption forecasts are subject to constant revision. The devastating effect of surplus capacity on economic growth in Opec member countries is still apparent.

The repeated talk about raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on oil imports in the consuming countries only serves to exacerbate the exporting countries' dilemma. Another problem relates to the extensive campaign being launched against oil products in the name of environmental protection. The campaign portrays oil as the most polluting energy source, although coal is more harmful and nuclear power is more dangerous, as the Chernobyl disaster demonstrated so poignantly. We are naturally concerned with protecting the environment on the local and global levels, because it affects our very existence. However, any decision taken in the name of environmental protection must be based on scientifically proven facts about the scale of pollution caused by various sources and the costs of reducing it.

Obstacles

These obstacles do not create an atmosphere conducive to sound investment decisions about expanding the production capacity of the oil exporting countries. If true world economic growth is to be achieved, a frank, constructive dialogue must be established between producers and consumers, industrial and developing countries. Only in this way can the obstacles be overcome and bridges of mutual understanding built, leading to a clearer picture of future world oil demand.

The oil producing countries have spared no effort in fostering understanding with the oil consuming countries, as witnessed by the large number of meetings, symposiums and lectures organised by Opec and Opec in conjunction with institutions in the industrial countries such as the European Economic Community, with the aim of promoting understanding.

The invitation to constructive dialogue still stands. Are there any takers?

Dr Usameh Jamali,
Opec, dir. of infor. & lib. dept.,
Kuwait.

Biased reporting

SIR: Like many others it agonises me to hear about any unpleasant news of my country. Not long before I read in Kuwait Times about "a story of ten million rats in Bangladesh." AT brings from time to time stories of "Bangla clashes" and "jungle fighting" in my country.

There is almost always mention in news report of our people's deplorable economic condition. I do concede that these are all true and truth must be revealed always. But I only wonder why one should seek for filthy things to reveal almost all the time. Do we only have too many rodents to find and too little to crumbs to eat?

A good heart can very easily find everywhere in this world a lot many good things to give to its mankind. But a bad one can always look for the bad.

One can very easily discover the poor humble condition of my country like many of the Third World nations and if one is prudent he will seek for the cause of this condition. One will not hesitate to mention while talking about my country's misery that 200 years of colonial rule by the British and 24 years of discrimination by Pakistan have caused the major havoc on this nation's economy and subsequently made the country infested with too many rodents.

Reports of clashes especially among students are true. But our students are as progressive as any progressive student community anywhere in the world.

They were at the forefront in our struggle for freedom and still remain the vanguard in the progressive movements of the nation.

A good heart with a good brain can easily find that this poor nation has a rich culture and customs and has a rich literature and has many renowned writers, poets, artists and professionals to boast of.

We stand all as one in time of our disaster hand in hand; we endeavour with all our efforts to build a happy future.

One should not be vindictive nor should he be biased in his word and work. So many people in this world are suffering and so many people are sad. So let's make this world a happy place to live by our deeds.

Harun,
Safat.

IAC official

SIR: Absurdity has been defined as a statement of opinion manifestly inconsistent with one's own belief. Somehow, I was reminded of this definition, when I read the letter from the so-called IAC well-wisher in your newspaper dated March 25. It is hard to believe that this writer really believes in his own stated opinions!

His statement about the key official of the India Festival not being a member of the Indian Arts Circle is not a big revelation. This official never pretended to be a member of IAC. Anyone with average common sense could make out that this key official was only comprising the programme that day with a lady companion.

I am relieved that the writer did not complain that the artist who danced that day is not a member of IAC. I wish to compliment the key official and many other for spending their valuable time for India Festival along with the IAC members. It is this spirit of co-operation and understanding which brings about unity among Indians.

The purpose of the so-called well-wisher seems to be a rift in the IAC. Please, Mr W.W., give more credit to IAC members. The correct word the writer should have used instead of 'inner circle', is executive committee.

My enquiry reveals that the executive committee of IAC duly met and authorised the vice-president to take all necessary steps for conducting the festival. The March 7 function was held under his authority and with his clearance and as such it was strictly in order. I understand that there is no rule that a general body meeting should be held for conducting every function.

The ignorance of Mr W.W. about the rules and a careful reading of the last but one para of his letter proves that the writer is not a member of IAC. Moreover, if he really was a member of the IAC, he could have easily taken up his complaint directly to the executive committee rather than resorting to a letter in the newspaper.

I challenge this IAC well-wisher to publish his name and IAC membership number, if his intentions are honourable.

The writer should realise that IAC has to take up M.M. (money making) activities to pay back M.B. (money borrowed). When IAC was borrowing thousands of dinars to build the current premises, where were you, Mr Well-Wisher?

An IAC member,
(Name and address supplied).

Money-making

SIR: The IAC and Indian schools are aptly called money-making institutions and both are run almost by the same people. Both are started with Indians' money or financed by Indian organisations but accountable to few selected VIPs, who are screened and selected by the top man.

The pathetic point is that both are run by people who have a history of making organisations "bankrupt".

Those new schools running of single shift profit, while Indian schools with double shift and with old rents are always in debt.

Once I heard a director saying, it's too difficult to run the school with its limited income. What kind of comfort do you give to students for the fees you take from the parents?

Look at the KG building, Salmiya, which is dilapidated and one more floor is being added. Children have difficulty when it rains. Any other school in Kuwait offer better facilities than Indian schools, which always claim that they are moving to their own building but never move.

For parents with more than 2 or 3 children, it's naturally difficult to pay full fees especially, at the present cost of living. Has the generous chairman — at least, that is what he and his supporters claim — ever thought of such poor people? I don't think, by doing this he will make this too "bankrupt"!

Where are all those revenues of IAC, throughout these years? Is it true that it will be demolished soon, and still it's in somebody else's name and Sharat Mehta is yet another trick to make more money before demolition.

Both these institutions should be brought under the Indian embassy soon, because both are too much corrupt. That way these two will be able to offer maximum benefits to all Indians alike and not to a selected few.

An Indian,
(Name and address supplied).

School affairs

SIR: I avail this opportunity to voice my concern over the mysterious affairs prevailing over International School of Pakistan and earnestly hope that you will accommodate my view point.

Today is Sunday, April 1st, 1990. 9th Class has just been promoted to 10th. The first class of physics is in progress when the principal enters and disrupts the class' satiation. He represents Hecplains Pakistan Judicial System of Lower, High and Supreme courts. By doing so he is trying to brain-wash the young minds by advocating that the Supreme Court is still open for affiliation appeal, therefore "sit-night" and persuade your parents not to transfer you to other schools. He even threatens that those obtaining transfer certificates, shall not be accommodated later on.

Later that day, all the teachers who came to the same class used all their skills to brain-wash the children and advised them to stay, even at the expense of ruining their careers by appearing as external candidates. The next day, the brain-washing techniques didn't remain confined to Senior Classes, but the whole school was briefed about Pakistani Judicial System in the morning assembly sermon.

Apparently the principal is trying to halt the exodus of students from the school but sadly, without taking any tangible and meaningful steps. His misleading and erroneous interpretations may shake the young minds into an emotional frenzy, but not to the parents, who have just witnessed a disastrous event of late Matric Class.

I would like to advise him to refrain from rhetoric and false pretensions and act positively, if at all, concerned with the welfare of our children. Now he cannot fool parents even on April 1.

Akther J. Shah,
Safat.

Doubts about leaders

SIR: The belated announcement on the set-up of the Goan Welfare Society which appeared in the Arab Times is most welcome. Indeed, it has taken a lot of patience, stamina and determination to realise the formation of this society for the common benefit of the Goans in Kuwait.

Whereas our hearts go all out in support of the society and its aims, however our minds have doubts whether those who have entrusted with the functions of this society will go about handling its affairs in the best interest of the Goans.

We are saying this from a point of recent development. When in good faith, the Goan Community Committee for Air-India flights, customs and cargo matters, lent its support to the society to create a separate GWS cell to tackle the relevant issues and when the first meeting took place with Air-India officials in Kuwait on April 2, the president of the GWS Joe Correa failed to convey the information of this first meeting to the head of the Goan Community Committee from a point of personal ego. This in itself is a sad experience and poor reflection on the performance of the head of the managing committee who has to function without prejudices or bias in the best interest of the GWS. Any other issues not related to the matter of airfare/customs/cargo have to be tackled separately in an in-house manner.

This episode is reluctantly brought to the attention of the GWS members at the very beginning to inform them so as to avoid such an incident happening again in any other area of GWS operations and functions. We cannot allow Joe Correa to make his own rules which the society does not accept.

It is record that the Goan Community Committee was set up as early as 1979 and throughout its 10 years of existence it has with the support of Kuwait Goans community secured the Goaflight, taken up issues with Goaf customs and got the cargo warehouse facility and has excellent dialogue with Air-India Kuwait office as well as other government institutions in India.

For our side we shall give every possible help to the GWS.

Vincent de Souza,
(Founder member — GWS),
Kuwait.

Bury differences

SIR: Through your newspaper "What's On" column, I came to know that Hyderabadis (Deccan) are going to celebrate 400 years of Hyderabad (India). I would like to thank Mohammed Khan, sponsor of the organisation, Mohammed Hashimuddin convenor, Nasiruddin joint convenor, Dr Nair, sports convenor, and all others who are trying to make this event a success.

I request all Hyderabadi to put aside their differences and get together to make this event a success.

Israel takes Iraqi threat seriously, but no action likely now

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 4, (AP): Israel is taking seriously Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's threat to use chemical weapons, with some officials calling for a gas mask in every house.

But the new Middle East tensions are not likely to produce any immediate military conflict.

One reason is that the signals coming from Israeli officials indicate there will be no attempt at this point to launch a pre-emptive strike like the June 1981 air raid on Iraq's Osirak nuclear plant.

"I think the message here is: cool things down, don't get into unnecessary escalation and a misreading of

intentions," said Dore Gold, a Middle East analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Officials here have issued statements stressing Israel had "no aggressive intentions" and noting a pre-emptive strike would be risk-free as it was in 1981 because Iraq now had the ability to retaliate with missiles and warplanes that could reach Israel.

Also, while there is concern about Iraq's nuclear programme, it does not seem to be on the verge of producing an atomic weapon as Israel claimed in 1981.

Jaffee center expert Joe Alpher said Iraq's nuclear development was five to 10 years away while space agency head

Yuval Neeman estimated three to five years.

Israel's reaction, for now, appeared confined to a strong showing of its technological superiority — the launch of the Ofek-2 satellite, which required a powerful missile and sophisticated electronic capabilities.

Analysts here believe Iraq is also unlikely to initiate a military action at this point because it would invite a massive Israeli retaliation.

"I don't think the Iraqi motivation for this verbal escalation is a desire to fight with Israel at this point," said Alpher.

"It seems to us that the Iraqis are more concerned with the international

situation in Iraq," he added, suggesting the sharpness of Hussein's threat to "make fire eat half of Israel" may have been an attempt to divert attention from social unrest at home.

Writing in the liberal Haaretz newspaper, military commentator Zeev Shiff said Hussein's tough words may have been ill temper over the arrest of his agents in Britain while trying to smuggle electronic triggers that could be used for atomic weapons.

Gold said the Iraqi leader's remarks should shift the focus of concern away from the Palestinian uprising to the overall Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Saddam Hussein has thrust the lar-

ger Arab-Israeli conflict back onto the world agenda after the intifada (Palestinian uprising) seemed to put it into eclipse," he said.

"It will require reassessment by both the United States and Israel of how to cope with the security challenge posed by Iraq," he added.

Right-wing politicians like Foreign Minister Moshe Arens picked up on the theme, saying it was clear the real obstacle to peace was Arab radicalism and not Israeli settlement building in Jerusalem and the West Bank which has been the target of US criticism.

"Where is the obstacle to peace in the Middle East?" Arens asked a mayor's conference. "Is it in

Jerusalem? ... or is it in Baghdad when Saddam Hussein says he has the chemical weaponry to wipe half of Israel off the earth?"

Although the threat of military conflict seemed distant, a variety of officials stressed that Israel should step up its preparedness.

Iraq's boast of state-of-the-art chemical weapons followed immediately by Israel's launch of a satellite, has revealed the frightening new face of the Middle East arms race.

More than four decades of war decided by lightning air strikes and epic tank battles could now become devastating struggles of missiles, chemical weapons and nuclear bombs.

"Eventually Iraq is going to have nuclear weapons. Eventually Egypt is going to have nuclear weapons," said Gerald Steinberg, a missile specialist at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

Yitzhak Rabin, defence minister until last month, has warned Arab countries that Israel would retaliate 1,000-fold for any attack — raising images of devastation not seen in any of the Israeli-Arab wars.

Although the military strength of Israel and the economic weakness of Arab states has created an impression of relative calm, the race for arms to be used in some future conflict is unabated.

Geagea aligns with Hirawi

Taif peace pact accepted

BEIRUT, April 4, (Reuters): Lebanese warlord Samir Geagea gave his allegiance to the country's Syrian-backed president yesterday in a bid for support in his war for the Christian enclave.

Geagea, whose Lebanese Forces (LF) militia has been fighting forces loyal to General Michel Aoun for two months, implicitly accepted an Arab-sponsored peace pact to end Lebanon's almost 15 years of civil war.

"The solution in Lebanon is by recognising President Elias Hirawi as president of the republic and considering the Taif agreement an introduction to that settlement," Geagea said in an interview with the communist Voice of the People radio.

The inter-Christian war, in which nearly 900 people have been killed, broke out at the end of January when Aoun ordered the LF to disband and demanded that Geagea reject the Taif pact.

Aoun, who refuses to recognise Hirawi, opposes the Taif accord signed by Lebanese deputies in October because it makes no provision for total withdrawal of Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Analysts and Christian politicians said Geagea's remarks were an implicit appeal to Hirawi to back him against Aoun, whose troops he stands little chance of defeating alone.

"Geagea wants to avoid a new military showdown which could drain his military might. He wants Hirawi to intervene while

his men still control two-thirds of the Christian enclave," said one Christian politician.

"He knows that a war of attrition is not in his favour because he has 300 men as a striking force while Aoun still has 1,000," said the politician.

Hirawi has previously turned down an indirect plea for help from Geagea because he failed to recognise his authority and accept the Taif agreement. There was no immediate reaction from Hirawi to Geagea's statement yesterday.

Geagea, once an ally of Aoun, ordered media under his control to identify Hirawi as president. Aoun has banned newspapers and radio from referring to Hirawi as president.

A sharp fall in the value of their currency added to the woes of shell-shocked Lebanon as mediators failed to stop rival Christian armies from preparing for a decisive battle.

The Central Bank said yesterday the Lebanese pound closed at \$83.00 to the US dollar, 10 pounds down from Monday's close.

Economic experts said the decline in the value of the pound reflected growing fears among the Lebanese who rushed to buy dollars as troops of General Michel Aoun and rival militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) prepared for more fighting.

They said the destruction of

industries, factories, and banks in east Beirut and massive damage to the main power stations, water pumps and fuel tanks have crippled the country's already ailing economy.

Hirawi has asked UN peacekeepers to expel foreigners living illegally in the Israeli-controlled sector of south Lebanon, it was reported yesterday.

The state-run national news agency said the director of the Foreign Ministry's International Affairs Department, Ahmed Ibrahim, made the request Monday to a delegation from the command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

The dispatch said a two-man delegation for Unifil's command visited Ibrahim at his office in Muslim west Beirut Monday.

Arab mediators charged with ending Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war will meet tomorrow in Rabat to discuss the latest east Beirut fighting and aid for Hirawi, an Algerian official said.

In Beirut, an underground group threatened to attack French targets unless the remains of an Arab who assassinated a French revolutionary hero 189 years ago are returned to the Arabs, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Al Halabi stabbed and killed Gen. Jean Baptiste Kleber, a hero of the French revolution, as the general stood on a balcony in Cairo, Egypt on June 14, 1800.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Demand to put off polls: Seven Algerian opposition parties met President Chadli Benjedid yesterday to demand more time to prepare for the country's first free elections in June.

One of the participants, Social Democratic Party (PSD) President Abderrahmane Adjrid, told Reuters' Chadli would respond in two to three days. (Reuters)

Arafat to visit Sri Lanka: The PLO leader Yasir Arafat is expected to visit Sri Lanka in May, sources said yesterday.

The source said, Arafat has accepted an invitation extended by Mohamed Hanifi Mohamed, the Sri Lankan Parliament Speaker, to visit Sri Lanka.

Mohamed met the PLO leader when both were in India on separate official tours recently. (Kunan)

Soviet Jews pouring in: More than 7,000 Soviet Jews poured into Israel during the month of March and even more appear to be arriving in early April, according to figures compiled by a Washington-based organisation.

Although the Hungarian airline Malev temporarily halted charter flights to Israel in late March, causing the arrivals to slow slightly, more than 7,000 Soviet Jews emigrated last month, the national conference on Soviet Jewry, based here, said in its latest statistical report. (Kuna)

Chadian rebels claim losses: Chadian rebels claimed they inflicted heavy losses on government forces in recent battles along the country's eastern border with Sudan.

The rebels issued a statement saying they had killed "several hundred" troops and taken about 1,000 prisoners in attacks on garrisons at Tine, Iriba and Bahai. (AP)

IPI protests arrest in Sudan: The director of the International Press Institute has written to Sudan's head of state to protest the arrest of a part-time reporter for Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corp.

The journalist, Alfred Taban, is still under arrest in Khartoum.

"We consider your authorities' action a violation of internationally recognised standards of press freedom," IPI director Peter Galliner said in a letter to Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir. (AP)

French force to protect garrison: France sent troops to Chad last week to protect its dwindling garrison there rather than to confront Libyan forces, a senior government source said yesterday.

The source said the reinforcements were part of measures to safeguard a French squadron at Abeche military base, about 160 km (120 miles) from the Sudanese border, near an area where there had been fighting. (Reuters)

Go to Alaska, Jews told

NICOSIA, April 4, (Reuters): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi said yesterday Jewish emigrants could go to Alaska if they wished but not to Israel.

"Solving the problem of Jews lies in their remaining in their present countries and so can be established on a religious basis," he said in a message to an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Nicosia.

"Otherwise, we propose and alternative homeland for them in the Baltic republics, Alaska, Alsace-Lorraine or on the Volga river. These are Jewish areas, not Palestine," he said in the message.

"By what right are Jews emigrating from their countries to Palestine? If the Jews are being persecuted in their countries this does not give them the right to persecute other people, namely the Palestinians," he said.

About half-a-million Soviet Jews are expected to move to Israel over the next few years. Arab states fear they will be settled in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to the detriment of Palestinians.

The rebels issued a statement saying they had killed "several hundred" troops and taken about 1,000 prisoners in attacks on garrisons at Tine, Iriba and Bahai. (AP)

Syria questions America: The newspaper of the ruling Baath Party have questioned the American commitment to peace in the Middle East.

The front-page editorial in the daily Al-Baath said that the United States, in confirming the right of Soviet Jewish immigrants to settle in East Jerusalem, combined with its political military and economic aid, indicated the US was working in collusion with Israel.

Anti-Arab sign triggers protest: The owner of an inner-city supermarket who hung out a sign promising his customers no Arabs would work in the store was under investigation by Chicago city officials yesterday.

Major Richard Daley called the affair a "disgrace" and said the city's human relations commission would investigate.

The grocery store is located in a neighbourhood where animosity has broken out before between Arab and Asian shopkeepers and local residents, most of whom are black.

(Reuters)

Austrians in docks for arms scandal

LINZ, Austria, April 4, (AP): Eighteen defendants go on trial today for their part in illegal shipments of howitzers to Iran in postwar Austria's biggest weapons scandal.

The political dimensions of the case dwarf previous scandals because of charges that Austrian weapons were used in the Gulf war and because politicians may have endorsed the illicit deal.

Peter Oettl, an official at the provincial court, said yesterday that with 200,000 pages of evidence and other court records the trial, expected to last eight months, is also the biggest ever in Austria.

While the indictment does not say so, more than half a dozen top politicians were alleged to be involved in the scandal.

Under Austrian law, the export of war material into "crisis regions" constitutes the criminal offense of endangering the country's neutrality.

According to the indictment, all defendants committed "an absolutely political offense." If convicted, they face prison terms ranging between six months and five years.

The defendants are either managers or senior employees of the nationalised Voest-Alpine Iron and Steel Enterprise, Noricum, its weapons-producing plant, and Hirtberger, an old-established ammunitions producer in which Voest has a majority interest.

The main defendants are Peter Unterweger, the director of Noricum, and Voest-Alpine board members Gerald Wicher, Alfred Koch, Claus Reidl and Peter Strahammer.

The indictment lists 140-mm howitzers, type GHN-45, caliber 135mm, plus relating barrels and grenades that were delivered to Iran in eight installments in 1985 and 1986.

The first shipments were made with a license for Libya.

A separate court case is pending because of suspicion that in the years 1981-83 100 howitzers were exported to Iraq.

No change in plight of hostages

Iran accepts UN plan

NICOSIA, April 4, (Agencies): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said today Tehran has accepted a United Nations proposal to revive deadlocked peace talks with Iraq. Tehran Radio reported.

But Velayati added that points of the plan must be clarified before the two countries can hold direct talks.

Velayati said Iran's decision to accept a proposal by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, urging the two countries to sit down for two months of direct talks aimed at reaching a permanent peace settlement, had been communicated to the US.

The radio, quoted Velayati as saying that Perez de Cuellar would have to clarify how the points of US resolution 598, which both countries accepted previous to the August 1988 ceasefire in their eight year conflict, would be followed.

"Will he complete one point and then go to the other point?" Velayati asked.

The Iranians demand that Iraqi forces have to withdraw from Iranian territory seized in the closing weeks of the war before any other points can be discussed.

Iraq still occupies about 385 square miles (1,000 square kilometres) of Iranian territory.

"In the event one side creates problems, will he carry out the role the US Security Council has designated for him, meaning will he set a time limit for the talks?" Velayati asked.

Velayati added that for progress, determining a time frame is a must. The secretary-general has

taken the first step in the new plan, but it is necessary to take other steps to clarify his stance on the time frame."

Peace talks which began five days after the Aug. 20, 1988 ceasefire, have been stalled, mainly over the question of priorities.

Meanwhile demands by kidnappers of Western hostages in Lebanon should be met before any release of the captives, an influential Iranian member of parliament said.

"They (kidnappers) have certain conditions which have to be met before the hostages can be released," said Ahmad Azizi, leading the Iranian delegation to an Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting in Cyprus.

He told Reuters prospects for the 17 Western hostages in Lebanon, including eight Americans, had not improved despite a call in March by the government Tehran Times for their unconditional release.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said in March the issue was moving towards a solution and a Foreign Ministry official said the captives could be freed by the end of this year.

"I see no change in the situation. It remains the same as before," Azizi said.

He repeated Iran's position that Tehran was willing to help release the hostages on condition that Western countries helped to determine the fate of three Iranians and a Lebanese driver missing in Lebanon in 1982.

Afghan rebels deny role in drugs trade

ISLAMABAD April 4 (UPI): The head of the Afghan resistance's government-in-exile denied to a senior US official yesterday that rebel commanders engaged in drug trafficking in Afghanistan, a rebel statement said.

The assertion by Sibghatullah Mojaddidi at a meeting with Melvyn Levitsky, US assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters, came as customs officials reported the seizure of \$36 pounds of heroin near the Afghan border. It was one of the biggest such hauls in Pakistan this year.

Levitsky, on a five-nation Asian tour seeing ways to stem the heroin trade, said Monday that the United States has warned the resistance is "cannot accept a situation" in which it is providing aid to the rebels while they are encouraging drug production and drug trafficking.

Mojaddidi, president of the Afghan Interim Government, which was set up last year as a government-in-exile, denied in his meeting with Levitsky that the resistance was involved in the drug trade, an AIG statement said.

"Rejecting categorically the allegations that Afghan mujahideen are indulging in narcotics cultivation and trafficking, the president made it clear that Islam prohibited the cultivation and use of drugs and defined it as a great sin," the statement said.

EVENTS



CAC student's exhibition

The director of the Communications and Aviation Centre, Jassem Al Zanki inaugurated the Arts exhibition for the centre's students. Many paintings and artworks including drawing on glass and ceramic, wooden handicrafts and others, were exhibited.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

SOCIAL

Hyderabad
The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Qui Qutub Shah - the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadi and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convener Literary Committee, P.O. Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

PAC's Silver Jubilee
The organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programmes and "Shum-e-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Rose Ferns' drama
MAY 10-11. Expatriate Club proudly announces that God's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Khetan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinx" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Ladies International League
LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. All inquiries contact Cecilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Summer Affair '90
THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Holy Week 1990
Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday:
8th April — 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 3.25 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 4.30 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.45 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am. Concelebrated Mass of Chrism (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English); 9.00 pm. Adoration (English) — in the big hall).

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani); 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm Confessions; 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English).

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in big hall); 12.00 noon. Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani); 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam) in big hall).

Sidhu Devi

PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous playback singer Miss Sidhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Khetan.

Indian Cuisine Centre

Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designfull henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Kuwait Little Theatre

Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Approb essay competition
ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding an essay competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan." The essays between 1000 and 1500 words in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

Fours prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The penal of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact Tel. Approb. 2425315. Fax. 5323751.

Approb Eid Milan Party
Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising its traditional Eid Milan Party at the SAS Hotel Ballroom, on the second of Eid Al Fitr.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

Sindhu Devi

PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous playback singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Khetan.

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GEF hosts Port Rashid video crew

THE Port Rashid distribution terminal of Gulf Express Freight — the freight forwarding arm of GAC — is being used as the setting for a promotional video aimed at highlighting Dubai's potential as a regional distribution centre.

The video, which last for between eight and ten minutes, is being produced by a UK company on behalf of Port Rashid. It is due to get its first airing at Eurofreight Brussels — the industry's key shop-window on the continent.

"We were more than happy to allow our terminal to be used as the background for the video and see it as a testament to the facilities GEF can offer and its understanding as Dubai's leading freight-forwarder," said GEF's marketing manager, Bill Hill.

Gulf Express Freight recently moved into a 28,000 sq ft transit and distribution warehouse situated within Port Rashid. The company has installed tiered racking systems to ensure the careful segregation of cargo which is all handled by GEF's own staff.

"Regional distribution via Dubai is a growing concept and we want to show international companies how it can work to their benefit," said Port Rashid's assistant marketing manager, Tony Condon.

Gulf Express Freight and the Port Rashid Authority are two of an eight-strong delegation from Dubai which is due to participate in the three-day Eurofreight Brussels which gets underway on April 9.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 10.15 Cartoons
- 10.30 Mama Anisa and Children Local children programme
- 11.00 Children variety
- 11.15 Cultural film
- 12.05 Religious feature
- 12.15 A game show programme presented by the Social Reform Society (part 2)
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 World Animals: Cultural serial
- 2.00 Cabool adventures: Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical Serial (part 10)
- 3.10 Human Health: Cultural programme (part 10)
- 3.35 Al Qababah Bahlool: Arabic serial (part 10)
- 4.25 Rasa Al Ekhya: Local religious programme
- 4.45 Rafat Al Hajan: Arabic serial (part 10)
- 5.30 Hadeeth Deni: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi.
- 6.25 Mazenger: Cartoon serial
- 6.45 Baada Al Eftaar: Religious feature
- 7.00 Madeenat Al Ajaeb: Local children serial (part 10)
- 7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 8.15 The Family Programme: Local programme
- 9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme
- 9.35 The World Today via Satellite
- 3.20 Holy Quran and closedown

FRIDAY

- 10.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 10.15 Cartoons
- 10.30 The Children magazine: Local children programme prepared by Ameena Khayri.
- 11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and speeches.
- 12.30 A special programme on Zakat: Local programme prepared by Kuwait Zakat House.
- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 Alwan: Variety programme prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab.
- 2.00 Cabool adventures: Cartoon serial
- 2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: Historical Serial (part 11)
- 3.15 Human Health: Cultural programme (part 11)
- 3.35 Al Qababah Bahlool: Arabic serial (part 11)
- 4.30 Rasa Al Ekhya: Religious programme (part 11)
- 5.30 Hadeeth Deni: Religious programme, presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor.
- 9.00 Juhayna: Cultural programme (part 10)
- 9.45 Sawalef Min Al Madhi: Local programme
- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 The Family: Local

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.10 Police Academy: A cartoon series for children.
- 8.30 Mr Wizard's World.
- 8.45 Beauty and the Beast.
- 10.30 The Bill Cosby Show.
- 11.00 Tales from the Dark Side: "Slippage". A young man feels that everything is lost from him.
- 11.30 Roseanne: Chicken Hearts. Roseanne is employed by Bryan who has a restaurant and works as a teacher. In order to come to good terms with him, Rosie suggests that her husband Dan may repair Bryan's car!
- 12.00 Wiesguy: "The Battle of the Barge". Moby a mafia member attempts to deprive Albert another member from his trade in garbage where a Chinese business man and owner of a factory of plastic explosives attempts to kill "Albert".
- 1.30 News in Brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

- 8.00 Opening Announcement and Holy Quran
- 8.10 Popeye and Son: A cartoon series for children.
- 8.30 Think Again... Gold diamonds... Symbols denoting ranks and positions.
- 9.00 News in English.
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan. A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan.
- 9.45 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait.
- 10.00 Islam in Focus: A religious programme on the occasion of Holy Ramadan.
- 10.30 Globe TV: The world language ... Pop music... Zulu music... a trip to the North Pole... a trip to Vietnam... and Afghanistan.
- 11.00 Tales from the Dark Side: "Slippage". A young man feels that everything is lost from him.
- 11.30 Roseanne: Chicken Hearts. Roseanne is employed by Bryan who has a restaurant and works as a teacher. In order to come to good terms with him, Rosie suggests that her husband Dan may repair Bryan's car!
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- 1.30 News in Brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

Bajwa says goodbye

NAZEER Bajwa bids goodbye to Kuwait this weekend.

Bajwa came to Kuwait in early 1967 and remained attached to the general insurance sector since then.

A large group of his friends hosted a farewell in his honour. He thanks his friends and prays for the prosperity of Kuwait.

Bajwa plans to start a business in his hometown, Sialkot, Pakistan. Good luck Bajwa.

CINEMA TODAY	
Al Andalus Street Justice	FRIDAY
Al Salmiyah Malone	Al Andalus Street Justice
Al Hamra Hell on the Battle Ground	Al Salmiyah Malone
Drive-in Arabic film	Al Hamra Hell on the Battle Ground
Al Firdous Nigahen	Drive-in Arabic film
Fahabeel Open Jyoti Bare Jwala	Al Firdous Nigahen
Fahabeel Bhul Bichar	Fahabeel Open Jyoti Bare Jwala
Al Jaha Arabic film	Fahabeel Bhul Bichar
Granada Distant Thunder	Al Jaha Arabic film
Blue Iguana Rolling Vengeance	Granada Distant Thunder
Salsabikhat Naadu Vaazhikal	Blue Iguana Rolling Vengeance
Jleeb Mob War	Salsabikhat Naadu Vaazhikal
Na Insaifi Some Ke Dil Loh Ka Hain	Jleeb Mob War
Ahmadi Drive-in Arabic film	Na Insaifi Some Ke Dil Loh Ka Hain

PRAYERS

Imsak	4.02 am
Fajr	4.12
Zohr	11.51
Asr	3.23 pm
Magrib	6.09
Isha	7.27

FRIDAY	
Imsak	4.01 am
Fajr	4.11
Zohr	11.51
Asr	3.23 pm
Magrib	6.10
Isha	7.28



Cathay Pacific sponsored UCHR

Cathay Pacific Airways sponsored the United Cup Horse Race, which was organised by the Bahrain Equestrian Club. Seen in the photo is the winning owner of the event, Sheikh Abdulla Bin Isa Al Khalifa, receiving his prize from Mohammed Jaffer, Cathay's sales representative.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Energy file

OECD oil use up in first quarter

PARIS, April 4, (UPI): Oil consumption by Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries rose 0.5 per cent during the first quarter over the same period last year to 38.7 million barrels per day, the International Energy Agency said yesterday.

The agency said oil consumption by OECD countries during the second quarter of this year should increase by 1.5 per cent over the second quarter in 1989 to 36.5 million barrels per day.

The agency added that spot prices for all major crude oils continued to fall last month and were 15 to 20 per cent lower than at their highest levels in early January.

It said that for all of 1990 OECD oil consumption should be 1 per cent higher than last year to 38 million barrels per day.

Consumption in North America for all of 1990 is expected to average 19.3 million barrels per day, an increase of 0.5 per cent from last year. Consumption by European (OECD) countries should rise 1.5 per cent over 1989 to 12.8 million barrels per day. The OECD Pacific region should see a 3 per cent consumption increase to 6 million barrels per day.

The agency estimated world consumption outside the OECD area and not including the centrally planned economies of Eastern Europe will average 53.3 million barrels per day this year, a 2 per cent increase over 1989.

Oil production by OECD countries in March was estimated at 16 million barrels per day, 200,000 barrels higher above the revised February production levels, mainly as a result of higher estimated production by Canada, the United Kingdom and Norway.

The crude oil output by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was estimated at 23.7 million barrels per day in both February and March, according to the agency report.

The report said Saudi Arabia produced an estimated 5.6 billion barrels per day in March compared with 5.5 million barrels per day in the previous month. Iraq was the only other country to increase output in March, producing 3.1 million barrels per day compared with 2.9 million in February.

Kuwait's production was reported to have remained steady in March from February at 1.8 million barrels per day. Iran produced 3 million barrels per day of crude oil, the same in February.

Liberia and Venezuela were the only two countries to have reported reduced production levels, with the former's output declining to 1.3 million barrels per day from 1.4 million in February while the latter produced 1.9 million barrels per day in March from 2 million in produced 1.9 million barrels per day in March from 2 million in prices rebounded in moderate trading boosted by the sharp 2.7 per cent recovery in Tokyo and stronger British pound. The FT 30 index gained 13.2 to close at 1,764.3.

Cooperation

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al-Chalabi said on Wednesday Baghdad wants to boost technical and economic cooperation and cultural exchanges with Japan, a senior Japanese official reported.

Development of Iraqi industry and expansion of its oil production capacity would also benefit Japan. Chalabi was quoted as telling Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Petroleum

East Germany is planning to open its petroleum market to Western oil companies as part of efforts to rebuild an economy in tatters after 40 years of communist mismanagement.

Klaus Eichner, director of the state-run Minol Company which has a monopoly on fuel distribution, told the ADN News Agency on Tuesday that plans being made "would allow Western oil companies to supply the domestic market."

Decline

US crude oil prices declined in quiet trading Tuesday as the market anticipated that oil, industry survey would again show a substantial build in the nation's inventories.

The benchmark West Texas intermediate crude for May delivery dropped 16 cents to end the day on the New York mercantile exchange at \$20.30 a barrel, after opening near its high on the day of \$20.55 a barrel.

Agreement

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has signed a foreign trade agreement worth \$10 million with the Aden Refinery Company in South Yemen, it has been reported here.

The credit is designed to help the refinery import quantities of crude oil and refined products from an unspecified IDB member state.

Contracts

Indonesia's state-owned oil company Pertamina will soon sign seven new oil production-sharing contracts with foreign firms, according to a company executive here.

Alex Frederik, head of the company's division responsible for operation with foreign contractors, said: "Two of the contracts — with Hutchison and Atlantic Richfield would provide for expansion of existing operations."

'Securing finance for oil output rise not insurmountable'

KUWAIT, April 4, (Opecnet): The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) says it believes that securing the finances necessary for expanding production capacities of oil exporting countries is not "insurmountable."

An editorial in the April edition of the Opec monthly "Bulletin" released here, is in answer to concerns voiced in some oil industry quarters as to how the necessary funding for expanding production capacities would be made.

The publication says that oil producing countries had on many occasions expressed their willingness to produce the quantities required for world econ-

omic growth.

"They have backed up their statements with concrete plans for expanding production capacities and increasing exports," it points out.

"These countries have sufficient oil reserves to last for many decades," says the editorial, stressing that Opec oil reserves in 1987 totalled 600 billion barrels, against 340 billion in 1980.

It says there was a "high probability" that more discoveries would be made in most Opec member countries since exploration efforts were still in their early stages. "A fact is well known to everyone concerned with the oil industry.

The publication notes that some oil producing countries were able to finance their own projects, while others required outside help, noting that "as long as reserves exist, financing should not pose a problem," even if came from foreign sources.

"Capital always flows to the most secure and profitable investments," it maintains, adding that the real obstacle to expanding production capacity was uncertainty about how oil demand in the consuming countries would fare.

The oil markets were "still swayed heavily by transient factors" and long-term consumption forecasts were subject to constant revision.

"The devastating effect of surplus capacity on economic growth in Opec member countries is still apparent," it notes.

The editorial states that if true world economic growth was to be achieved, "a frank, constructive dialogue must be established between producers and consumers, industrialised and developing countries."

Only in this way, it says, could the obstacles be overcome and "bridges of mutual understanding" built, leading to a clearer picture of future world oil demand.

The publication observes that the oil producing countries had "spared no

effort" in fostering understanding with the oil consuming states.

This had been witnessed by the large number of meetings, symposiums and lectures organised by Opec and Opec in conjunction with institutions in the industrialised countries, such as the European Economic Community (EEC), with the aim of promoting understanding.

"The invitation to constructive dialogue still stands, are there any tankers?" the publication asks.

Concerning speculation on consumer countries' raising taxes on oil products and imposing duties on crude imports, it says this only served to exacerbate the "dilemma" oil exports were in.

The publication declares that another problem was related to the extensive campaign being launched against oil products "in the name of environmental protection."

This campaign, it says, portrayed oil as the most polluting energy source, although coal "is more harmful and nuclear power is more dangerous," as the Chernobyl disaster had demonstrated "so poignantly."

It stresses: "We are naturally concerned with protecting the environment on local and global levels, because it affects our very existence."

Opec production steady in March

Output increase likely

BRUSSELS, April 4, (AP): Opec nations held oil production steady in March but at a level more than a million barrels a day above their self-imposed supply cap, according to estimates released yesterday.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries pumped a total of about 23.7 million barrels a day in March, the same as in the previous month, according to the Paris-based International Energy Agency.

But, it said, "sales of Opec crude oil in March are believed to be lower than this level due to the evident excess supply of heavy, sour grades and weaker-than-expected demand from refiners."

Private analysts predicted Opec would increase output even more this month.

"It seems it will go up in April, maybe as much as 24 million barrels a day," said Pierre Terzian, editor of the Paris-based newsletter Petrostrategies.

Leading the surge in last month's production were Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Nigeria, according to the International Energy Agency's monthly oil market report. All were estimated to be above the individual quotas set for each country by the group last year and reaffirmed at a recent meeting in Vienna.

The organisation imposed a ceiling of 22.1 million barrels a day for production in the first half of the year. But members have not been adhering to their quotas.

Oil prices soared in early January but have been gradually slipping since then, falling in early March below the Opec's target of \$18 a barrel.

The average price of a basket of seven crudes monitored by the agency was \$17.33 a barrel in the last week of March, down from \$17.47 in the previous week.

Prices of West Texas intermediate, the key US grade, have been running the range of \$20 to 22 a barrel.

In an effort to keep prices firm, Opec oil ministers met last month and issued a fresh call for restraint by all nations in the normally weak April-June quarter.

Analysts say that if Opec keeps production high, prices will weaken in the coming months. The softening of oil prices will have little impact on gasoline prices at the pump.

Demand for crude normally slumps in the second quarter when spring weather warms the United States and other consuming nations. The International Energy Agency predicted demand for Opec oil at 20.4 million barrels a day in the current quarter.

"People have been saying production may be higher rather than lower (in April). We have had two months of a touch below 24 (million barrels a day). It's unlikely to come down very much," said Nick Antil, oil analyst at county Natwest in London.

A specialised oil publications has suggested that Opec crude oil output was rising "relentlessly" and looks set to touch the 24-million barrel a day mark in April, after climbing another 200,000 barrel per day last month.

Kuwait petrochemical complex Plant to cost \$3b

KUWAIT, April 4, (Reuter): The total cost of a petrochemical complex which Kuwaiti planners approved last month could be \$3 billion, a senior Kuwaiti economist said yesterday.

He said the original estimated cost of the eight-plant complex of 600 million dinars (\$2 billion) was expected to rise 50 percent.

The official said the plant, to be financed by local sources, would start production in 1994.

"Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah wants it to come on stream as soon as possible because it has a major role in backing Kuwaiti industrial and petrochemical projects," he said.

He hoped the project would soon be opened for international bidding.

The complex, part of Kuwait's plans to boost exports of refined products, will use domestic naphtha and natural gas as feedstock to produce polyethylene, ethylene glycol, polystyrene, styrene monomer, styrene butadiene and aromatics.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lower interest rate: The United States believes the stage has been set for lower interest rates both at home and in other industrial countries, a senior US treasury official said on Tuesday in Montreal.

Senior Deputy Assistant Secretary John Niehuis said that while inflation signals remain, they suggest a lower course for prices, "creating the right environment for lower US interest rates."

Niehuis made his remarks to the annual meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank. His comments were good news for the Latin debtor countries which would benefit from lower rates in servicing their financial obligations. (Reuter)

British, Siberian trade deal: A British management consulting firm said Tuesday it reached a deal with the Siberian region of Tomsk to help it develop international trade worth more than 2.6 billion pounds (\$4.3 billion).

The company, Doctus Plc, said it signed a 15-year contract to help Tomsk sell its resources for hard currency, and assist the region in spending that money on equipment and other imports to help develop the area.

Saudi bank reports increased profit: The United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) said on Tuesday its unaudited first quarter 1990 results showed a net profit of 26.8 million Saudi riyals (\$7.1 million), a rise of 58.5 per cent over the same period in 1989.

USCB said in a statement received in Cyprus that its 1989 first quarter net profit was 16.9 million riyals (\$4.5 million). Net profit for all of 1989 was 95.3 million riyals (\$25.4 million). (Reuter)

Saudi interbank market inactive: Dealers reported an extremely quiet day on the Saudi interbank deposit market as the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan entered its second week.

The lack of activity was attributed to the impending weekend and there was no discernible movement in rates.

The spot riyal was being quoted at 3.7512/15 to the dollar. (Reuter)

Short dates ease: Short dates eased on the Kuwaiti dinar interbank deposit market, dealers said.

Liquidity in the market meant that short dates were well offered, with overnight being offered at 8-3/8 per cent. Spot/next was being quoted at 8-1/8 8-1/4, and one week 8-3/8 8-3/8.

There was no activity in fixed dates and rates remained unchanged. (Reuter)

Japan passes stop-gap budget: Japan's Parliament on Wednesday passed a 10.200 billion yen (\$64 billion) stop-gap budget to cover the first 50 days of the 1990 fiscal year that began on April 1, parliamentary officials said.

The opposition-dominated upper house of Parliament rejected the government-sponsored budget earlier in the day, but it was overruled by the more powerful lower house. (Reuter)

GM tops Forbes, Fortune titans list

\$4.2b earnings despite cutthroat rebates

NEW YORK, April 4, (AP): Fortune and Forbes magazines found one thing they could agree on yesterday, proclaiming General Motors Corp., the nation's largest public company in their two competing lists of US corporate titans.

The Fortune 500 list ranked the nation's largest industrial firms by sales. The Forbes ranking included all public companies measured by sales, profits, assets and stock market value.

Both magazines have issued 500 rankings for years, but this was the first time in recent memory that the lists were released the same day. In an effort to upstage its competitor, Fortune topped its ranking with a "super 50," it described as the most powerful companies across all categories.

GM was on top either way, with nearly \$127 billion in sales and \$4.2 billion in earnings during 1989, despite fierce foreign competition and cutthroat rebates that dampened business for all big

three automakers — GM, Ford and Chrysler.

The Fortune 500 overall also had a profit decline in 1989 after years of strong growth, reflecting the slowdown in industrial America.

Behind GM, Fortune's top 10 were: Ford Motor Co., Exxon Corp., International Business Machines Corp., General Electric Co., Mobil Corp., Philip Morris Cos., Chrysler Corp., E.I. Du Pont De Nemours and Co., and Texaco Inc.

Rounding out the top 10 of the Forbes super 50 were: GM, Exxon, IBM, Ford, Philip Morris, American Telephone and Telegraph Corp., Mobil, Du Pont and Sears, Roebuck and Co.

The Fortune 500 list appears in the April 23 edition and is available on newsstands today. Fortune released its ranking two weeks before it is to hit the stands in the April 30 edition.

Fortune 500 sales jumped 7 per cent to a record \$2.16 trillion in 1989, but overall earnings fell 8.2

per cent to 105.6 billion. In the previous two years, profits among the big manufacturers had climbed an unprecedented 79 per cent.

Median profits fell in nine of Fortune's 27 industry groups and only 26 of the top 500 companies had earnings growth, down from 327 in 1988.

Pharmaceuticals had the largest median increase in earnings, up 19.6 per cent; followed by beverages, 18.3 per cent; textiles 15.3 per cent; food, 14 per cent; and electronics 10 per cent.

The motor vehicles and parts industry suffered the largest median earnings decline, down 25 per cent, followed by Aerospace, down 12.5 per cent; petroleum refining, down 11.8 per cent; transportation equipment, down 9.4 per cent; and computers, down 9 per cent.

Fortune said six of the 10 largest industrial companies suffered double-digit earnings declines, including a 66 per cent drop at Chrysler, whose ranking was dropped a notch from 1988.

Major predicts zig-zagging UK inflation

LONDON, April 4, (Reuters): Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) said that inflation, which the government has sworn to defeat, would zig-zag before dropping decisively.

"Inflation of course is stubborn. It always takes a while, and is doing so now. As I have made clear over recent weeks, it won't be an entirely flat path," the chancellor, John Major, said.

"It will be a bumpy ride before we get inflation securely on a downward trend," he said in a testimony to a parliamentary committee on this year's budget.

Inflation is running at an annual 7.5 per cent in Britain. Britain's annual inflation last year

Mighty Japanese banks humbled by regulators, markets

TOKYO, April 4. (AP): Japan's leading banks, which bumped US competitors from the world's top 10 list in the 1980s, are finding themselves squeezed by higher costs, reduced business and the Tokyo stock market's slide.

"The advantage Japanese banks used to enjoy has been largely eradicated... the whole perspective of international banking is considerably changed," said David Threadgold, an analyst with County Natwest Securities.

Paul Heaton, senior analyst at WI Carr securities, predicts that profits at the 13 leading commercial banks dropped 11 percent for the fiscal year ended March 31. In the

previous year, profits rose 25 percent.

Leaving out income from equities sales, earnings from banking business may be down by 50 percent from fiscal 1988, Threadgold said.

In addition, the fall of the yen and Japan's stock market have imperiled the banks' plans to raise their capital levels to meet international standards set for 1993.

"Management at top banks feel we have entered a very difficult period. But we are not going to see any bankruptcies," said Teruyuki Takahashi, a senior manager at the Japanese

Federation of Bankers' Associations.

The world's 10 biggest banks in assets are Japanese. Sheer size will keep them there, but they will become weaker competitors abroad as their source of cheap funds dries up, Threadgold said.

Rising interest rates have made it more expensive for banks to acquire funds for lending. Banks now are paying holders of money market certificates 5.8 percent interest, compared with the 0.75 percent paid on ordinary bank accounts.

Furthermore, more customers now can buy money market certificates because the min-

imum purchase has been cut from the equivalent of \$62,500 to \$6,250.

Meanwhile, business from income-producing loans has been chilled by higher interest rates and by government efforts to cool the feverish property market.

Japan's Central Bank has raised its key rate for loans to commercial banks from 2.5 percent to 5.25 percent in the past 10 months. In turn, commercial banks' prime lending rates jumped from about 5.5 percent to around 7.2 percent.

"The speed of change is too fast," Takahashi said.

At the same time, the bank of Japan has instructed banks to keep property loan growth in line with the industry's overall loan growth, instead of their recent pace of double the overall rate. The move is aimed at helping cool property prices that have jumped 50 percent to 90 percent annually in Tokyo and other major cities since the mid-1980s.

Banks have been dealt a double blow by the rapid change: They are paying higher rates on customer certificates but are earning relatively low interest rates on long-term past loans. Anticipating higher rates, many companies rushed to take out long-term loans

over the past year, Heaton said.

Furthermore, loan volume is slumping, said Yoshiaki Takahashi, chief of research at Yasuda Trust Co. Businesses are returning more of their funds from other sources, simply putting off capital spending, he said.

Heaton said loan growth, which had been expanding at 12 percent to 14 percent a year, was now less than 10 percent.

Meanwhile, the rapid fall of the yen and the stock market has hurt the banks' attempts to meet international capital adequacy standards, said Takahashi, at Yasuda Trust.

Japan economy losing ground

Concern at Washington talks

TOKYO, April 4. (AP): Japan's sinking stock market and weakening yen reflect a growing lack of confidence in the nation's economy and worry over expected changes in its structure, analysts said yesterday.

Traders said many investors are concerned about the outcome of trade talks now underway between the United States and Japan in Washington on the structural causes of that nation's \$49-billion trade imbalance.

In the talks, called the structural impediments initiative, the United States has pressured Japan to boost its public works spending, simplify its complex distribution system, ease the way for large retailers to open stores, and tighten enforcement of its anti-monopoly law.

"Japan will have to make a series of changes in the structural talks, and will have to forget about the old structures that supported our stock market boom and the strong yen in the past," said Kenji Maeshiro, a stock analyst with Yamaichi Securities Co.

US, Japan work on trade deficit

Many differences remain

WASHINGTON, April 4. (Reuters): US and Japanese officials worked into the night yesterday weighing hundreds of proposals on how to cut the big American trade deficit with Japan, but problems arose with some of the ideas.

One trade official said, however, that they were taking the attitude that it was "better be right than fast."

Trade sources close to the two days of talks said the United States was not satisfied with Japanese reluctance to scrap a law giving small shops the power to veto the opening of supermarkets, which tend to stock foreign products.

The United States, for its part, rebuffed Japanese proposals in the structural impediments talks that it take tough action to cut its budget deficit, increase savings and approve new taxes to curtail consumer spending.

Nobuo Matsunaga, a special envoy sent by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to stress Japan's commitment to resolving the disputes, is to meet with President George Bush today.

US officials said after Mon-

day's meetings that good progress had been made in the series of talks which started last summer but until now had made little progress.

They added, however, that many differences remained before an interim report could be issued in mid-April.

The report, in the words of US trade representative Carla Hills, was to be a "blueprint" for further action by Japan which is to be detailed in a final report on removing the impediments to be issued in July.

US officials said the Japanese submitted to the American negotiators some 250 reforms the United States could make in its government policies and business practices and the Americans gave some 100 suggestions to the Japanese.

Separately, the United States yesterday announced that Japan had agreed to open its multibillion-dollar space satellite market to foreign satellites.

US officials said American space satellite makers would be the likely big beneficiaries of the agreement in principle.

Seoul shelves 'reforms'

New steps offered

SEOUL, April 4. (AP): South Korea shelved radical economic reforms today and pledged fresh financial and other incentives to stimulate its sagging economy and exports.

"Measures have been prepared to bail out our nation out of an economic crisis," said Vice Prime Minister Lee Seng-yun, who also serves as top economic minister.

In a joint news conference, economic ministers announced a new set of special measures, including the shelving of a system requiring the use of real names on all financial transactions.

The government fears that real-name financial transactions would trigger a capital flight and send money into land and housing speculation, Lee said.

Millions of investors here have grown accustomed to using pseudonyms and to secret dealings in stocks, bonds and bank accounts.

Government officials estimate about 10 percent of all financial transactions are conducted using pseudonyms and about 30 percent of bank accounts are kept under false names.

SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 03/4/90

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT

SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUAIBA PORT

VSL AT ANCHORAGE:

SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUAIBA PORT

ETA Ship's Name Agent Tel. No.

14 Alkarim Balship 2436920

18 Queen Emerald A. Marafie 4848665

ETA Ship's Name Agent Tel. No.

3/04 Katya Zelenko Al Rashed 2422026

3/04 Ibn Bassam Ksa 4843150

3/04 Uni Superb Sms 4745471

4/04 Concord Bingo Algh Barwil 4842988

ETA Ship's Name Agent Tel. No.

09 Orient River Isa 2441860

11 Helena Oldendorff Isa 2441860

12 Al Hana D Sager Shaheen 2432692

19 Centex Yuan Algh Barwil 4842988

ETA Ship's Name Agent Tel. No.

01/04 Ajr Rms 2423642

02/04 Torbay Kmc 2432435

04/04 Indian Resource Algh Barwil 4842988

06/04 Kalima Rms 2441860

07/04 Indos Garnet Rms 2423642

08/04 Aspiri Kwt Transcoatl 2432692

09/04 Ocean Rose Algh Barwil 4842988

06/04 Tug Kanika VII S. Shabean 2432692

07/04 Roro Basaro Polar Usc 4843150

08/04 Al Zawraa Rms 4843150

15/04 Riu Rms 2423642

ETA Ship's Name Agent Tel. No.

01/04 Riu Rms 2423642

02/04 Riu Rms 2423642

04/04 Riu Rms 2423642

06/04 Riu Rms 2423642

07/04 Riu Rms 2423642

08/04 Riu Rms 2423642

15/04 Riu Rms 2423642

General Motors names Stempel to head new management team

DETROIT, April 4. (Reuters): General Motors, the world's largest automaker whose US market share has eroded over the past decade, named Robert Stempel yesterday to head a newly structured management team and succeed Roger Smith, who plans to retire.

Stempel, 56, currently GM president, will assume his new posts of chairman and chief executive on August 1. Smith, who previously said he would retire this summer, will leave office on July 31 shortly

after he turns 65.

Lloyd Reuss, 53, currently an executive vice president at GM, has been elected president to succeed Stempel, the company said. Reuss will have responsibility for all North American operations and worldwide automotive components.

The new management team also includes the appointments of two vice chairmen, John Smith Jr., 51, and Robert Schultz, 59, who will continue to oversee international operations and GM's non-

auto operations respectively.

The formation of the new team is in recognition of the growing importance of GM's profitable overseas operations and non-auto units like GM Hughes Electronics and Electronic Data Systems, while still focusing on core automaking operations, Smith said. The team will report directly to Stempel.

Stempel said the new structure of GM's top management is a reflection of his team approach. "I'm a team-oriented guy," he

said at a news conference.

The naming of Stempel, an engineer by training, to take over the helm of GM is a break from the company's tradition. GM usually chooses chief executives from its financial staff.

He faces the daunting task of turning around the automaker's huge but troubled North American auto business. Barely profitable, it is suffering from a number of woes, including too many assembly plants, high costs, tough competition and lackluster products.

Reforms face rebuff

MOSCOW, April 4. (Reuters): A senior Soviet official said yesterday that a government reform package to rescue the country's economy by creating a market system faced strong resistance and might even be rejected.

Andrei Orlov, a aide to Deputy Prime Minister Leopold Abramkin and one of the main architects of the plan, told the government newspaper Novosti that a political decision on when and to follow would have to be taken soon.

"There is a very strong view that we should return to the positions of 1985, to tried and trusted methods and means," said Orlov, referring to the year Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev came to power and launched his reforms of the Soviet system.

"The command system of administration—the term used to describe the previous six decades of rigid central planning and government control of the economy—has not yet been smashed and nostalgia for the past is strong," he told Novosti.

"The package could be rejected and the team which is ready to fight for radical reform could be dispersed...

I accept that society could reject a market solution and prefer strong administration measures," he said.



Helping hand

A Chinese labourer gets a helping hand from his co-worker as they carry boxes down a Hong Kong street on Tuesday. Commercial unloading of goods is often performed in this fashion because of the steep narrow alleys in the city. (Reuters photo)

Tunisia's accession on July 1

GATT rejects EEC charges

GENEVA, April 4. (Agencies): A GATT disputes panel yesterday rejected European Economic Community charges that it had bent world trade rules by faulting anti-dumping measures the EEC took against some Japanese assembly plants in Europe.

Delegates sources said that a member of the three-man panel took the unusual step of responding to the EEC complaints when the panel report came before a regular session of the ruling council of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Once panel reports are submitted, discussion is usually confined to delegations from the world trade forum's 96 member states.

The panel upheld a Japanese complaint that EEC duties were justified because Japanese firms were circumventing anti-dumping duties on these goods by shipping parts to be assembled at what it calls "screwdriver plants."

The date for the signing of Tunisia's protocol of accession to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has been set for July 1, 1990, it was decided at the GATT council meeting yesterday.

Briefing newsmen in the afternoon and later again in the evening, a spokesman for GATT indicated that the international process for ratifying the protocol of accession to GATT by Tunisia was still to be completed.

The Soviet Union's bid for observer status in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was deferred until the council's next session in mid-May, according to a spokesman for the 96-nation trade forum.

Moscow's application was noted at a GATT council meeting yesterday, and consultations will continue until the next session, said the spokesman on condition of anonymity.

The United States told the GATT council that it had settled a dispute with Seoul on South Korean restrictions on imports of American beef.

Australia and New Zealand at once complained that they had so far been unable to reach similar arrangements with South Korea.

Korean delegates said Seoul would hold new talks later this month with those two countries.

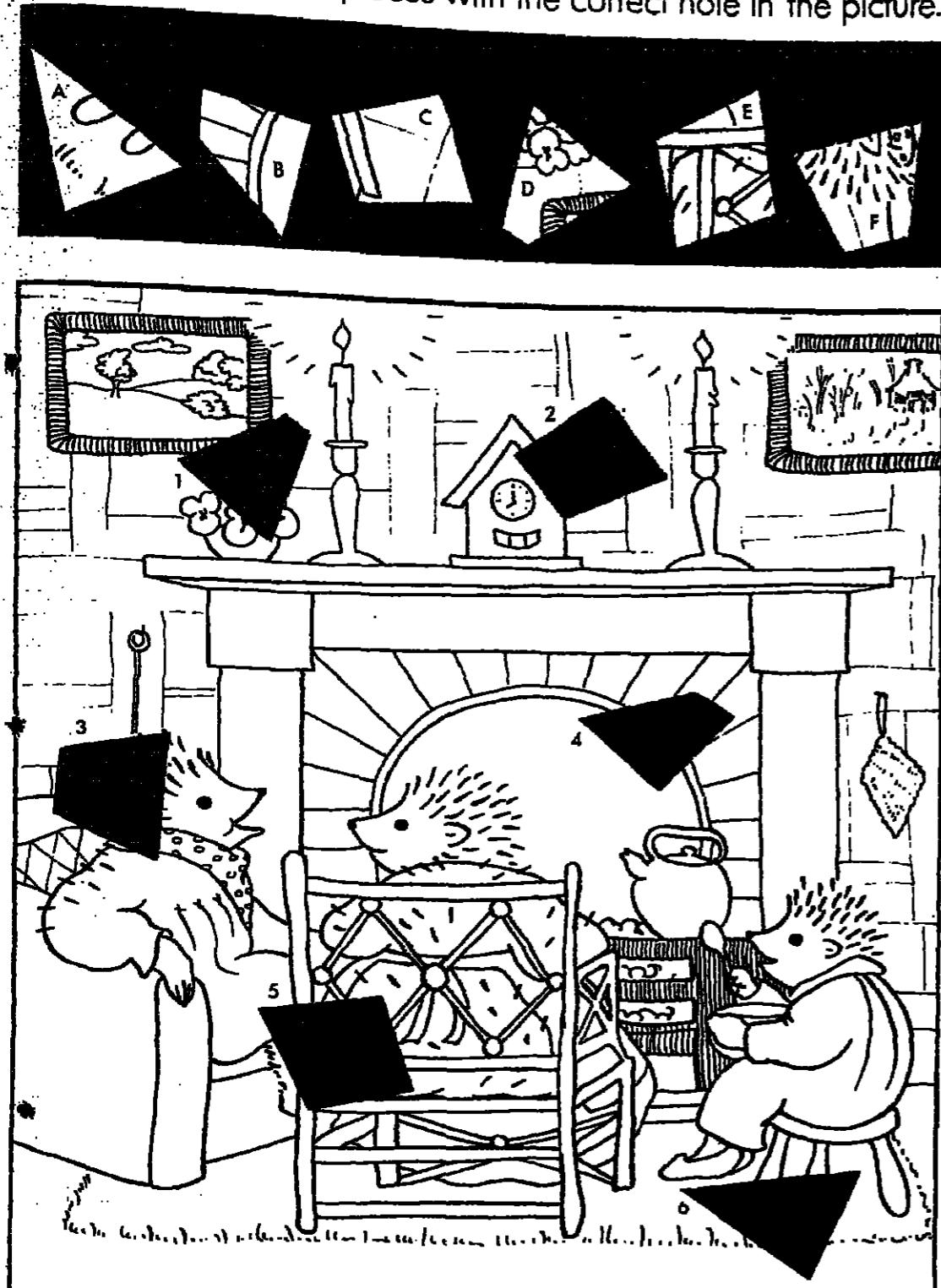
More than 900 people have

Boeing investigates sabotage: The Boeing Co. is investigating an apparent case of industrial sabotage, after a jetliner failed tests because of wires that had been cut.

"It clearly seems to have been deliberate," T. Craig Martin, Boeing commercial airplane group spokesman, said late Monday in an interview. The evidence at this point would suggest it

Missing pieces

Match each of these pieces with the correct hole in the picture.



Amazing facts

A ram adds an additional spiral section to its horns every year.

The southernmost manned lighthouse in the world is Cape Pembroke Lighthouse in the Falkland Islands.

The official cause of death of George IV was listed as rupture of the stomach blood vessels, alcoholic cirrhosis, gout, nephritis and dropsy.

The bayonet is named after the French town Bayonne.

Milan cathedral took 579 years to build and seats a congregation of 40,000.

The official name for Libya is 'Splaj', the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The archer fish can hit an insect up to 122 cm away with drops of water squirted from its mouth.

It takes 5 tons of rock to produce a piece of gold the size of a trouser button.

The nineteenth chapter of the Second Book of Kings and the thirty-seventh chapter of Isaiah are almost identical.

Following one of his victories the fourteenth-century Turkish chief Tamerlane built 120 pyramids containing the heads of 80,000 of the defeated enemy.

Oliver Cromwell won two important battles on September 3 — those of Worcester and Dunbar. He also died on September 3, 1658.

When the Hong Kong Jockey Club racecourse collapsed and caught fire in February 1918, 604 people were killed.

Nadia Comaneci, a 14-year-old Romanian gymnast, received 7 perfect marks in the 1976 Olympics.

The second largest religion is Islam (Muslim) with about 550,000,000 followers called Muslims.

Happy birthday



Wordsearch

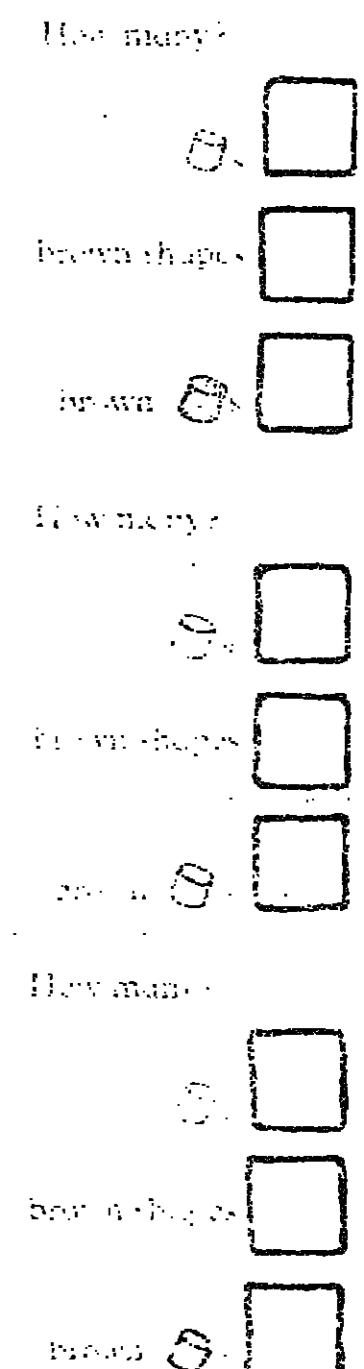
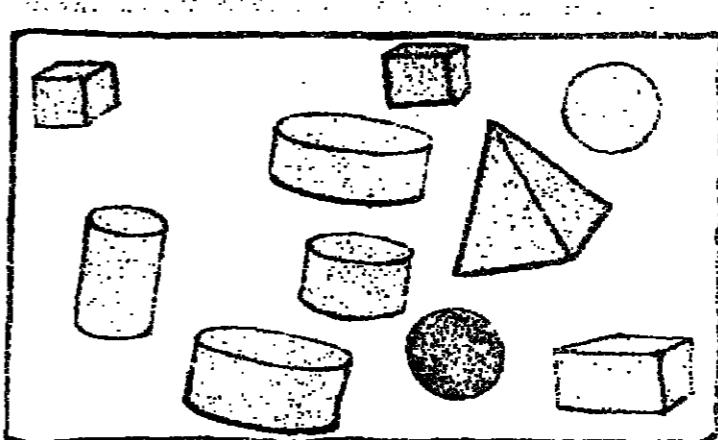
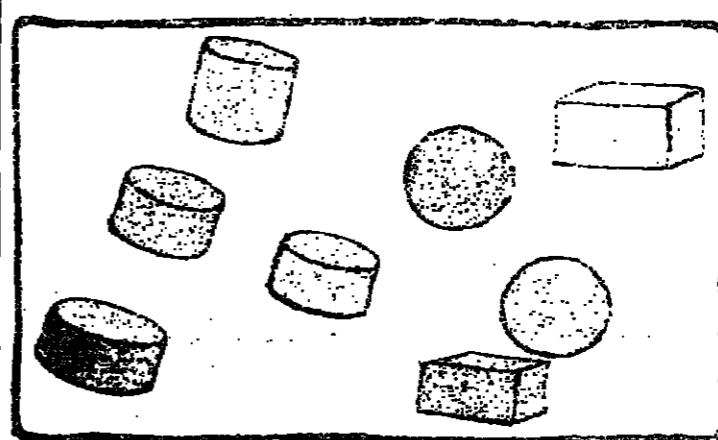
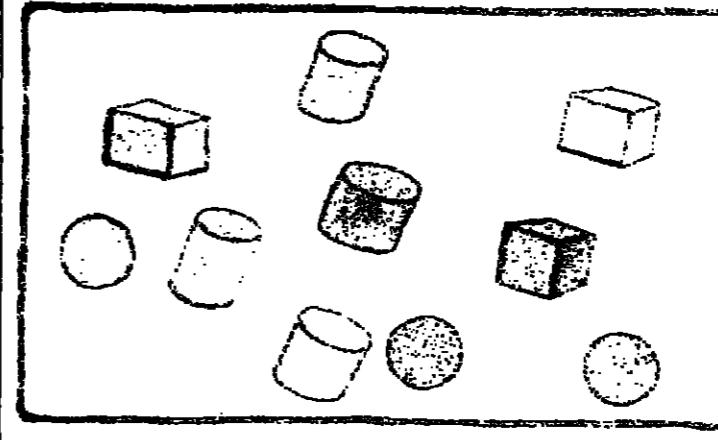
COMPUTER WHIZ

Computers are here to stay, and if you don't know anything about them, it could be a handicap. We've come up with a list of 34 computer-related words that should help you learn something about the way they work.

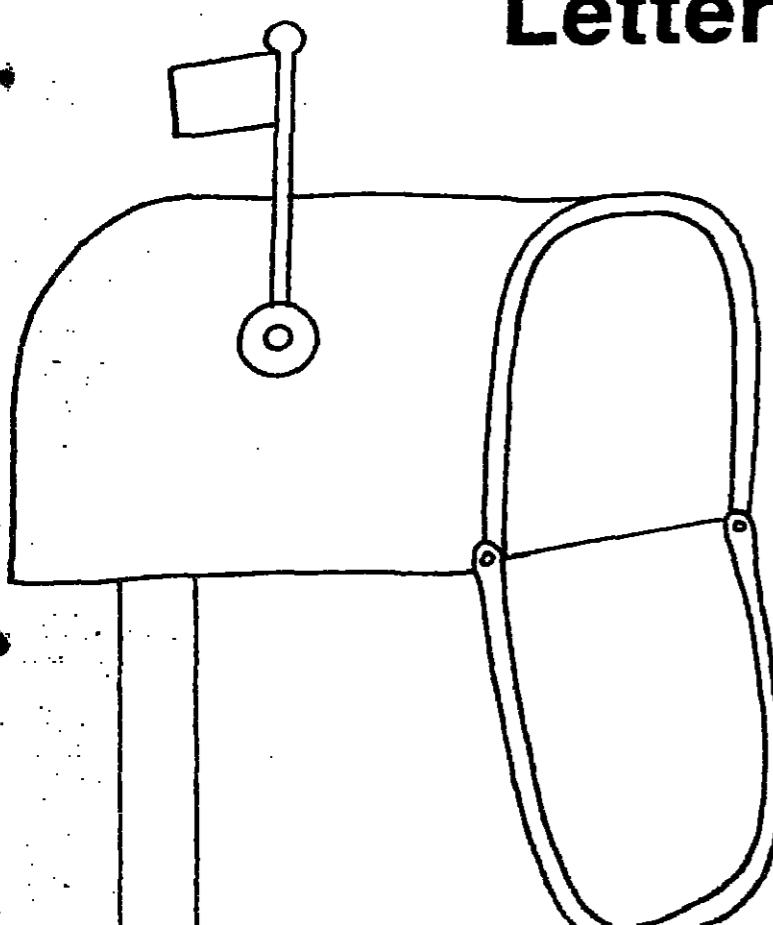
BASIC	FUNCTION	MUSIC	ROM
BOOK	GOTO	NUMBER	RUN
BYTE	JOYSTICK	PRINT	SHIFT
CARTRIDGES	KEYBOARD	PRINTER	SOUND
CASSETTE	LINGO	PROGRAMS	SYNTAX
CHIP	MEMORY	RAM	SYSTEM
DISC	MODEM	READOUT	TAPE RECORDER
ERROR	MODULATOR	READY	
EXPANDER	MONITOR	RETURN	



Sort them and count them



Letters And Stamps



Do the letter problems. Find the stamp with the correct answer. Cut out the stamp and paste it on the correct letter.

952
- 100

636
- 101

463
- 321

867
- 111

996
- 321

863
- 120

535

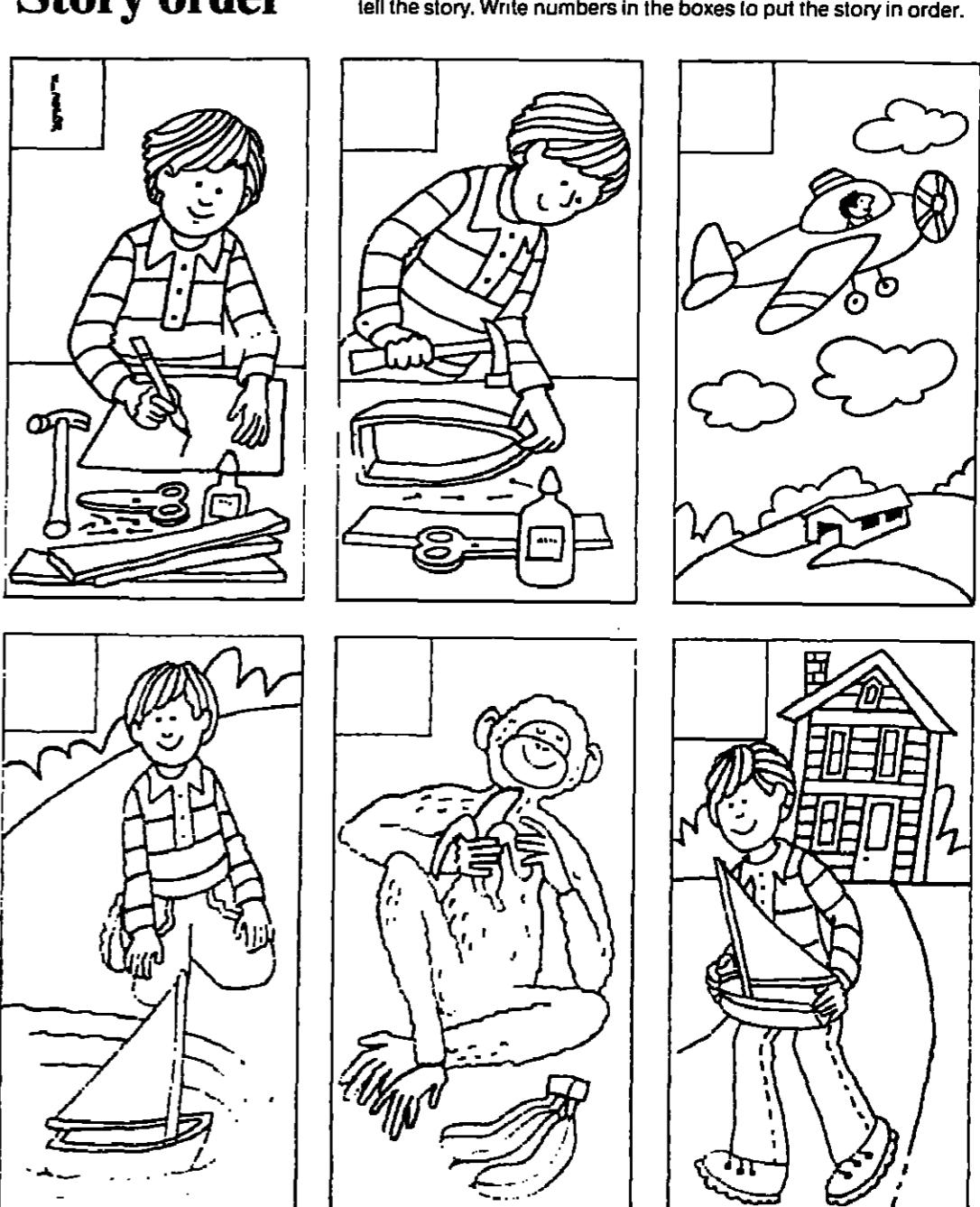
756

675

852

142

743



Mind your manners

By Julie Hodgson

"WELL I say," said Mrs Chang as a group of boys pushed past her. They just ran away without saying sorry. Mrs Chang thought that it was time that those young boys learnt a lesson, as she was tired of being pushed passed in the marketplace or shops, no one seemed to know the word "excuse me" or "sorry."

The very next day at the market she noticed the same group of boys who always hung around the marketplace, goodness knows what their parents thought as they should have been in

school at the time of the day. Well when she saw them, she boldly walked up to the boys and pushed past them, and then strode off with her nose in the air. Just as she suspected, the boys were very angry and they ran up to her.

"Hey, who do you think you are lady," one boy sneered.

"Just you listen to ME young man, you stroll around this town as if you own the place, pushing passed people without a care in the world. It's time YOU showed respect and minded your manners," she shouted.

You can imagine the shocked look

on the boys faces when she shouted at them, it embarrassed them because they were in the street and people had stopped to see what the commotion was.

Much to Mrs Chang's surprise they humbly apologised and told her they would watch out in future. The people that stood around them agreed with Mrs Chang and clapped when she walked away.

"Well that's a good job well done," she smiled to herself. With that she walked off and did the rest of her shopping secretly smiling to herself of what had happened.

You can imagine the shocked look

Dear Junior Readers,

Whether you are fasting or not, you must try to drink at least six glasses of water a day.

Water cleanses your system washing away a lot of bacteria which would otherwise cause spots. It helps the kidneys perform adequately, allowing them to rid your body of the poisons which result from digestion and other bodily functions. Water also keeps your system from dehydrating in Kuwait's harsh weather.

If you are not fasting then you can drink your water throughout the day. If you are fasting you will have drink all your water between breakfast and iftar. Further, if you eat salty foods or drink tea or coffee then a higher water intake is essential.

Manal

Colouring time



The Goops again



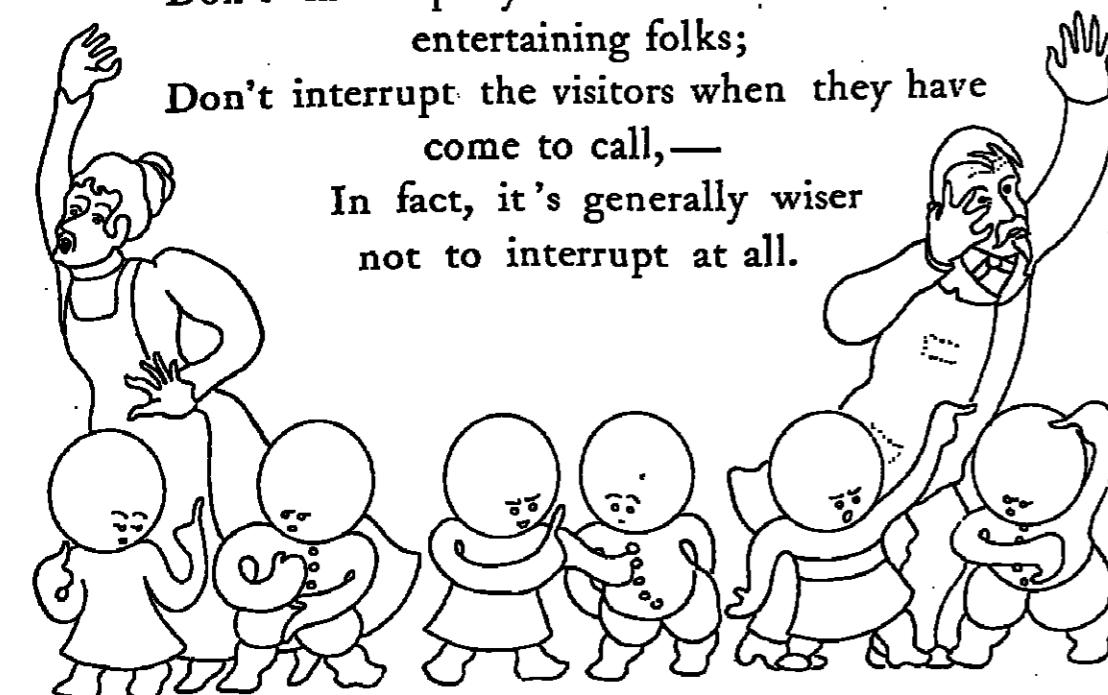
INTERRUPTION

Don't interrupt your father when he's telling funny jokes;

Don't interrupt your mother when she's entertaining folks;

Don't interrupt the visitors when they have come to call,—

In fact, it's generally wiser not to interrupt at all.



Rock Icicles

Water with weak acid in it can eat away the minerals in some kinds of rock to make caves. When water keeps seeping through the ceiling of such a cave, it leaves dissolved minerals behind on the cave ceiling that look like icicles (stalactites). Some dissolved minerals drip to the floor and make what look like upside-down icicles (stalagmites).

Can stalactites and stalagmites be made using Epsom salts and water? Check your answer.

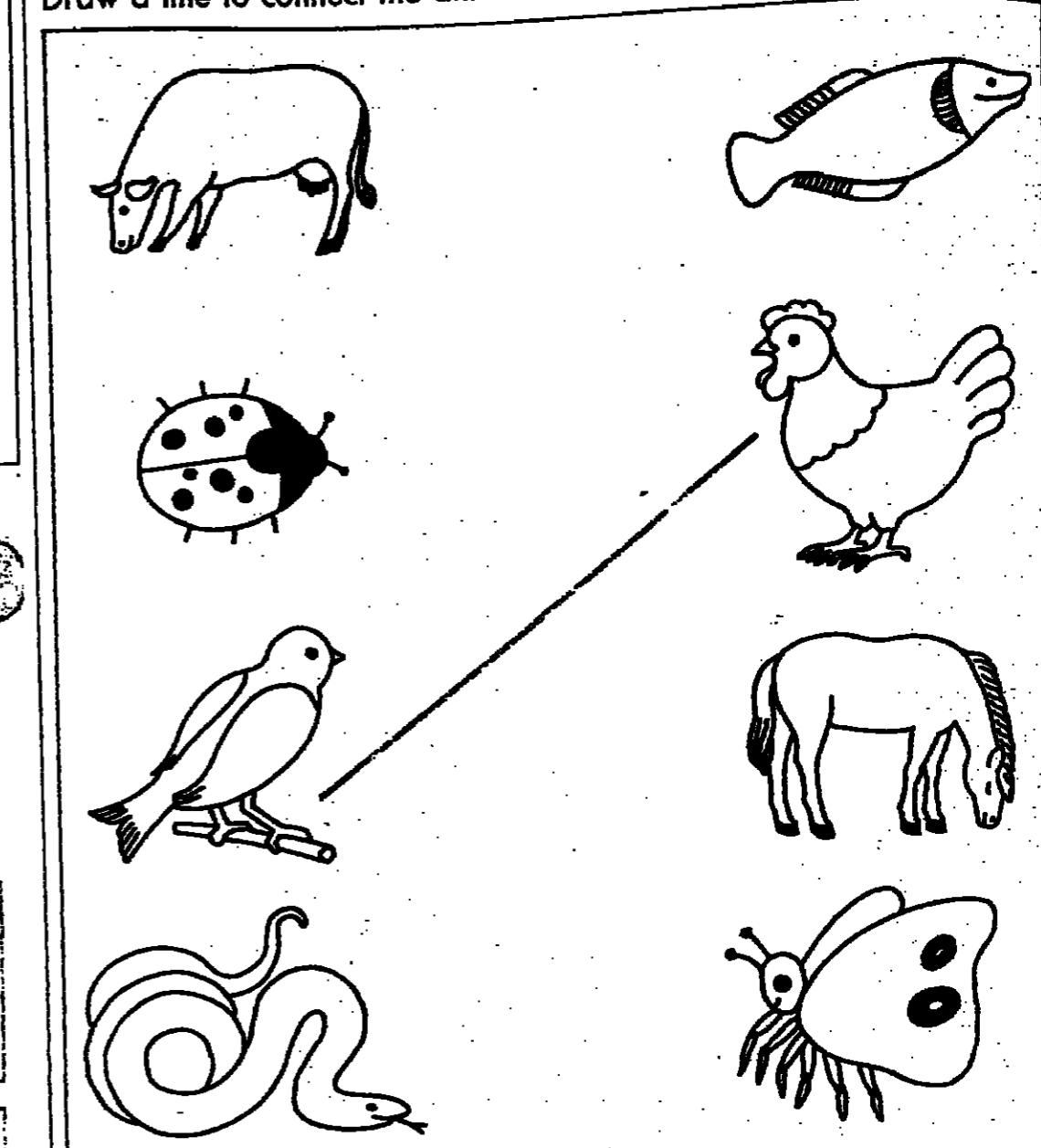
Materials Needed: Epsom salts, water, shoebox, string, washers or nails, 2 jars

Procedure:

- Cut a cave hole opening in the front of a shoebox.
- Mix Epsom salts and water in two jars.
- Follow your teacher's directions for string.
- Watch dripping and formation for one week.
- Draw a picture of your week-old cave.

How many legs?

Draw a line to connect the animals with the same number of legs.



Just for laughs!

Alan had just asked his father for an increase in his pocket money.

"What do you want more money for?" demanded his

father.

"Well, I'm thirteen now,

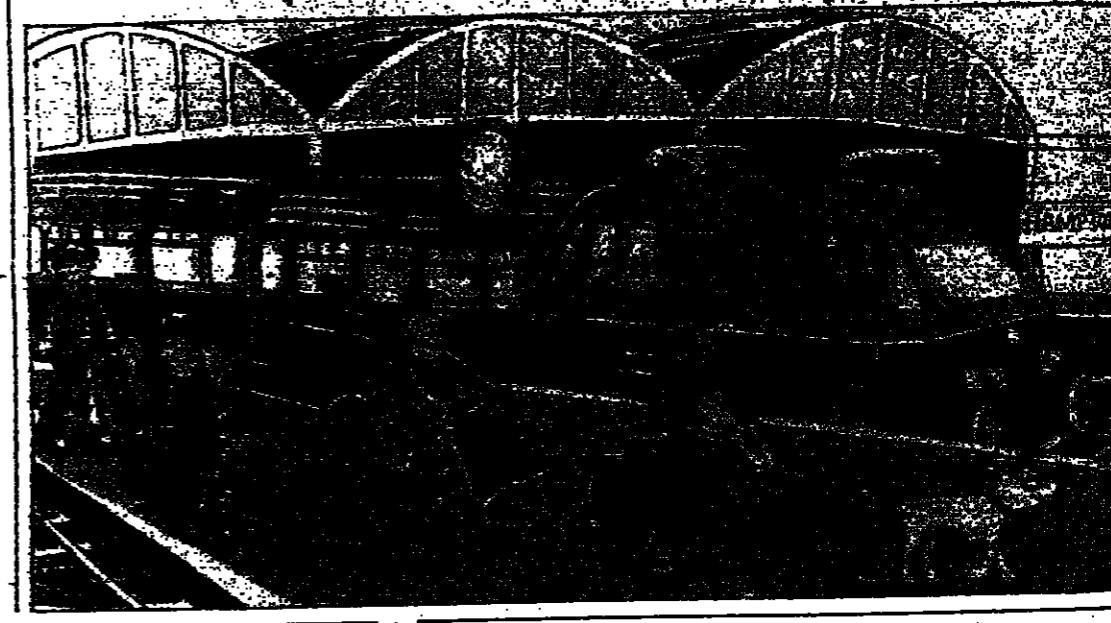
Dad," explained the lad,

"and I'm thinking of going out with girls."

"Girls? What kind of girls?"

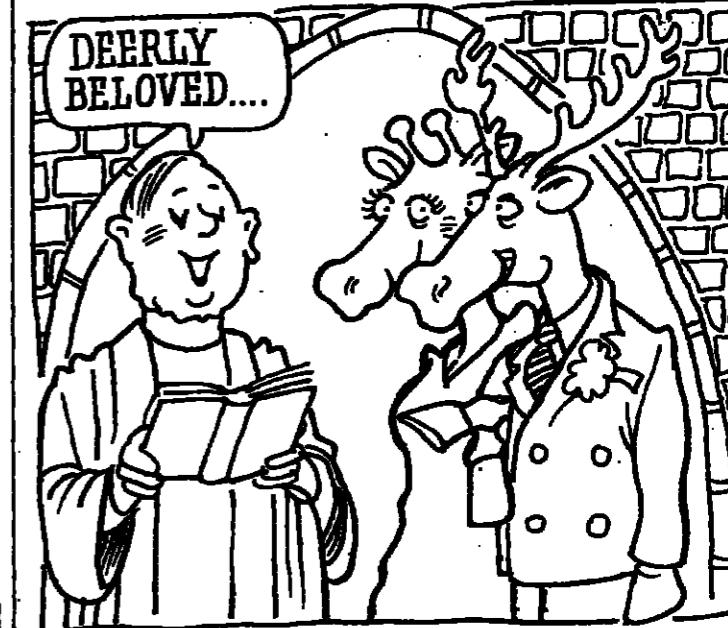
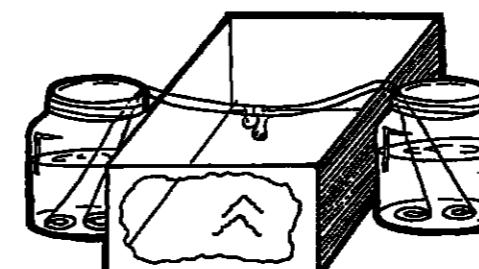
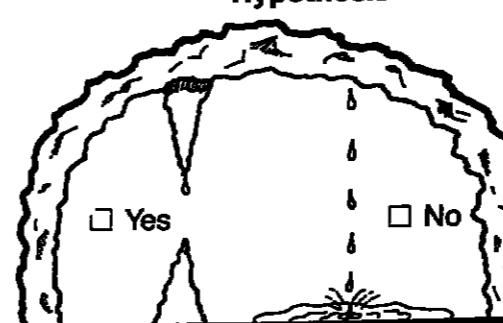
"Girls with money."

Spot the six mistakes in the picture below.



Rock Icicles

Hypothesis



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon?

Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday!

Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____

Telephone: _____
(confidential)

Send to:

ARAB TIMES

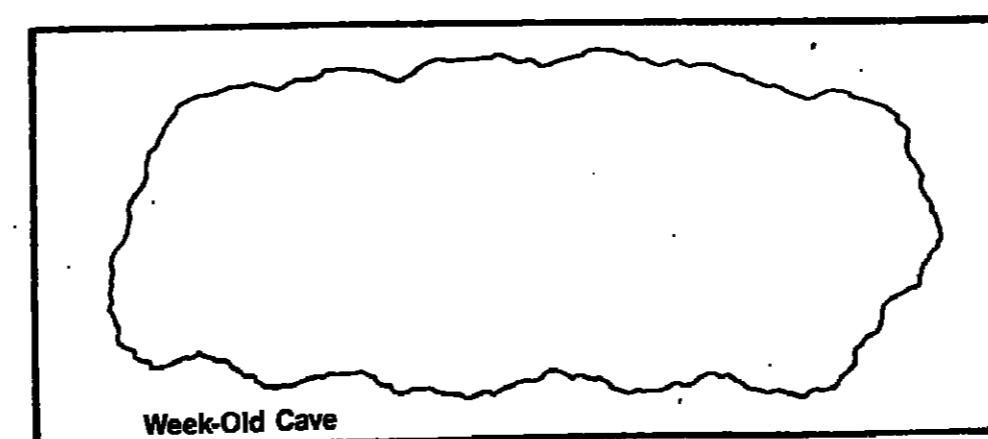
Junior Times

P.O. Box 2270

13023, Safat,

Kuwait

To avoid belated greetings, please send within a week before the special date.



Week-Old Cave

Results and Conclusions

- Could you make stalactites and stalagmites? _____
- Is that what you thought you could do? _____
- What did you learn? _____

Your
favourite
most
recent
picture
(4x6)

Indian Film

Fresh ideas, faces invaded cinema in 'trendy' '80s

Amitabh Bachchan in *Ganga Jumuna Saraswati*. In the 80s, the cult of violence faded.Sujata Mehta in *Pratighat*; this N. Chandra movie furthered the wave of violence.

'Kiss and tell' tales

Deception, by Philip Roth
(Simon and Schuster, 208 pp., \$18.95)

Near the end of Philip Roth's 13th novel, the unnamed female protagonist suggests she write her own version of the novel we've just read. She wants to call it "kiss and tell."

That title could serve nearly as well as the one Roth has chosen. *Deception*, for this work by one of America's most consistently intriguing novelists is about kissing and telling—with the emphasis on the telling.

Being a Roth novel it is also about much more.

Roth has always been interested in playing with literary forms and *Deception* is no different. The book is literally all talk, stripped of all authorial comment, all description except that given in conversation, all unstated observation.

At the heart of the telling are a pair of lovers: an American-Jewish author named Philip and a well-to-do Londoner who visits the writer in his studio flat. And they talk—wittily, intelligently, voraciously and endlessly—before making love, after making love, sometimes instead of making love.

They touch on their domestic discomforts, on sex, on anti-Semitism, on writing. And there are other conversations as well, including, finally, a confrontation with Philip's wife. She has discovered the notebook that is the novel in which all these conversations—including, of course, the conversation with the wife discovering the notebook—are recorded.

What's going on here? It's Roth up to his old tricks, exploring the ambiguity between fact and fiction, the uncertainty and complexity of identity, the question of how the imagination intersects with reality. It is a theme he can't seem to let go of but that he consistently carries off with verve, invention and confidence—even if at times it becomes a bit tiresome.

Roth's books show his unerring ear for dialogue. *Deception* is no exception and it's fast-paced and fun to boot.

The Renegades of Peru, by Anne McCaffrey
(Del Rey, 384 pp., \$19.95)

Anne McCaffrey's new book, *The Renegades of Peru*, is every bit as good as her others.

Someone who has not yet discovered McCaffrey had best pay careful attention to the introduction, the rest of us can plunge right in, since flying dragons and voracious organisms called thread are not something you are likely to forget.

The renegades are led by a woman who feels, probably correctly, that she was cheated of inheriting a vast estate because of her sex. Lady Thella was firstborn, but the wealth and noble title went to her half-brother. Faced with an arranged marriage, Thella takes to the hills to carve out her own domain.

But she is no feminist role model. Thella thinks nothing of slitting someone's throat to gain a slight advantage.

Her exploits take place amid a recurrence of thread, which has not been seen in so long that most people were convinced it never would come again.

The residents of Peru are descendants of spacefarers, who spent so much time carving out a living in a sometimes hostile environment that they lost the science allowing travel among the stars. The current generation is still fighting, but its members are willing to research their past when clues present themselves.

We can only hope that humanity's real future is as good as the fictional one full of high adventure and fun that McCaffrey has created.

A Present of Things Past, by Theodore Draper
(Hill and Wang, 305 pp., \$25)

Theodore Draper is one of the best essayists on modern history currently writing and his new collection of 10 essays confirms and extends that judgment.

In these pieces, drawn primarily from the New York review of books, the New Republic and Dissent magazine, Draper demonstrates both a breadth of vision and a meticulous handling of the sources of the historical record.

Thus some of the most interesting and charged pieces here are passionately felt, but carefully and reasonably argued, critiques of the abuse and misuse of the historian's task and the journalist's craft. He can be devastating and instructive at the same time.

Draper takes on the fact of "novelistic journalistic history," as represented by such books as Strobe Talbot's *Deadly Gambits*, which purports to give the inside story of Ronald Reagan's nuclear arms control policy but which relies on a novelistic retelling of episodes based on anonymous sources. Draper raises disturbing questions about the phenomenon that Talbot's response (also printed in the book) fails to rebut.

There are also two essays on American communism, Draper's forte, in which he challenges the revisionist, new left-influenced effort to make American followers of Moscow's line into folk heroes, a blistering analysis of the seemingly deliberate distortions in neo-conservative histories of the Yalta agreements and the post-war settlement of Europe, and two penetrating looks at the Iran-Contra affair.

It is a provocative and bracing look at the world as it has recently unfolded.

Tycoon, by Terry Pringle
(Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 281 pp., \$18.95)

Bill Brewster is the local oil driller's son, seemingly blessed by the fates with a life of ease and a lovely girlfriend.

His life was just fine, in fact, until the day Stan Gaines came back to Abilene, Texas. Gaines wasn't particularly popular in high school, there were rumours about what his mother did besides being a maid, and even now, Gaines doesn't seem to have any poise. But he does have plenty of ambition.

And Gaines hustles and Bill does not. In fact, throughout much of this often funny novel, Bill sits pretty much on the sidelines waiting for Stan to fall flat on his face—and watching as he succeeds beyond all odds, even marrying Bill's girl.

Fortunately Bill—and author Terry Pringle—has a good sense of humour and a knack for describing events and not a few odd characters as he's carried along in Gaines' wake. Will Bill forever be content to react instead of act? Readers will spend an enjoyable few hours finding out.

This I Promise You, by Tracy Stern
(Simon and Schuster, 343 pp., \$19.95)

As addictive as a box of rich chocolates, *This I Promise You* is one of those books you can't put down.

It is a story of heroism, heartbreak and determination as Kat fights to keep her family's legacy of managing a world class hotel—only to have it sold out from under her mother.

But Kat is a heroine with grit, and from Paris to Baden-Baden, West Germany, she works to win it back.

This I Promise You is sweet but not sappy rags-to-riches story.

High risk '90s launch 'Oye Oye' generation

By Firoze Rangoonwalla
Arab Times correspondent

APRIL stands for the season of spring and an occasion to celebrate. It is also a joyous moment for this columnist who has completed ten years with Arab Times, having started in April 1980.

A great deal happened in the last decade, erratic, exciting 80's. We would prefer to call them the trendy ten years, when several new people invaded the media scene, many old traditions changed and new trends were set on stream. The electronic media became a tough threat to the seventy year old cinema while also feeding freely on its material. There were constant danger signals flashed about the collapse of cinema.

Of course there was a lot of frivolity in the output of the 80's and the culture was never so bad before. It was a heritage coming from the shallow 70's when this erosion had started. And it may reach its climax in the 90's when the century ends.

At the start of the last decade, the craze for violence was not so strong. Triangular romances like *Dostana* and *Aasha*, family dramas like *Juda*, dance-musicals like *Karz* were big hits. Films like *Ek Baar Phir (Deep)* *Ackrosht* (*Smita*) or *Khubsoorat* (*Rekha*) could have a decent release and run.

On the contrary, the big once took a beating like Amitabh and Shashi's *Do Aar Do Paanch*, also *Sholay* Sippy's *Shaam* and B.R. Chopra's ambitious *Burning Train*. B.R. also introduced an ugly note with *Insaf ka Tarazu*, a copy of *Lipstick*, bringing sexy scenes and a new anti-hero called Raj Babbar. Its enormous success was the first blow struck in favour of evil and against good. No wonder, the whole decade saw a rise in blatant cases of rape in the country.

After a year, *Umrao Jaan* won awards; and its profit proved that all was still not lost, the cycle of young love stories (spectacularly completed in 1990 by *Maine Pyar Kiya* was started a decade ago with *Love Story*, *Ek Duje Ke Liye*, *Risky*, *Beraab*, and *Prem Geet* (with Babbar becoming the good hero). The older heroes accepted their fade-out at last and started productions to launch the sons.... Kumar Gaurav, Sunjay Dutt, Sunny Deol, Kunal Goswami, Rajeev Kapoor, Suneil Anand, with new heroines like Amrita Singh, Tina Munim and Vijayeta. And there was the southern pair Kamalasan and Rati Agnihotri. Some clicked, some crawled and some are still trying. If Amitabh had mega hits like *Lawaris* and *Naseeb* then better films like *Albert Pinto* or *Shardhanjali* could also be winners. In fact, it was the peak period of art cinema conquering box-office. Manoj Kumar in his own style got a patriotic hit in *Krantii*.

The following year saw the disco mania emerging, with Mithun as a dancing hero of sorts in *Disco Dancer* and with Bhappi Lahiri as a rhythm king. There were a variety of hits like the Muslim social *Nikaah* with old-worldish songs, the romantic comedy-cum-melodrama *Kaanchor*, R.K.'s progressive masala film *Prem Rog*, the Amitabh-Shashi tandem *Namak Halai*, Subhash Ghai's big canvas *Vidhata* and art film *36 Chowringhee Lane*. Of course, there were grand debacles too.

Amitabh had his bad spell even then, with turnips like *Mahaan*, *Bemisaal*, *Pukar*, *Yaaraan*. But he could recover with *Coolie* and the big media hype of his accident and danger spell in hospital, with the prime minister paying a visit. Meanwhile new stars emerged like Jackie Shroff and Meenakshi in *Hero*, Anil Kapoor in *Woh Saari Din* and the biggest of all, glamour girl Sri Devi in *Himmatwala*. This new crop soared high, as Attenborough made *Gandhi*, Govind Nihalani scored *Ardh Satya* as the most successful art film, Rajesh Khanna displayed the final flickers with *Avatar*, Shekhar Kapoor made medium-budget *Masoom* a popular success and Kamal Amrohi's *Razia Sultan* became the decade's disaster. But it was Jeetendra who became the most bankable star.

Another copy by B.R. Chopra, of *Death Wish* in the form of *Aaj ki Awaaz*, hit the jackpot and set long-term trends for injustice (rape and murder) opposed by vendetta with weapons, gory violence and disregard for law and police. In contrast, the 3-D films *Chhota Cheeta* and extremely innocent fantasy was also a big hit. The political film of protest and revenge also took roots with *Aaj Ka M.L.A.*, *Inqabul* etc. though only in formula garb. Better films like *Sparsh*, *Jaan Bhi Do Yaaron*, *Mohan Joshi* and *Saraansh* could still have their day.

The mid-80's saw a drastic change in trends and a swing towards sure success: violence. This despite the fact that a weepy romance like *Pyar Jhukta Nahin* was a record-breaker. Dimple made a surprise comeback with *Saagar* but had to wait to reach the top bracket. Films which left their impress on cinegoers and on copy-cat producers were violent ones like N. Chandra's *Antaksh* followed by *Pratighat*. It was the same formula in a different pseudo-real garb, like Rahul Rawail's *Arjun*, J.P. Dutta's *Ghulami*, B. Subhash's *Aandhi Toofan*, Subhash Ghai's *Mari Jung* and titles like *Mao Kasam*, *Durga*, *Insaf Main Karunga* etc. In the process small meaningful ones like *Kamla*, *Paar*, *Utsav* were all but wiped out, except *Tawaif*.

But the decade resounded with the jingle of money and sizzled with the deductive charm of new heroine, Mandakini, when Raj Kapoor's last film *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* hit the screen. Once again, romance, songs, wide screen and daring exposure had opened a gold-mine but the industry rightly said that only R.K. could carry it off. Others who tried fell flat indeed. After this came the last four (and worst) years of the decade. There were hardly any films to crow about and the hit or flop situation became as speculative as the stock market.

Some sincere attempts getting lukewarm response were *Ek Chaadar Mai Si*, the dream of some talented people of the 60's like Geeta Bali, *New Delhi Times*, *Naache Mayuri*, *Naam* were other such ventures. Mahesh Bhatt showed the path to video-TV by making *Janam* for an ad agency. Many big producers, driven to the brink by debts, took to TV serials and minted money again, now at the cost of television quality. The industry has to turn to snakes and "tantrics" for a change and this yielded a big money—spinner *Nagina*. Subhash Ghai could not make a block-buster out of *Karma*, *Dada*, *Kondke's* vulgar comedies remained a safe bet. A new dancing star in Mithun's shoes was Govinda, who arrived with *Ilaazam* and typified the instant non-actor of the new generation.

There are also two essays on American communism, Draper's *Deadly Gambits*, which purports to give the inside story of Ronald Reagan's nuclear arms control policy but which relies on a novelistic retelling of episodes based on anonymous sources. Draper raises disturbing questions about the phenomenon that Talbot's response (also printed in the book) fails to rebut.

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Meenakshi Seshadri and Jackie Shroff: discovered in the 1980s.

Behind the screen

• Elections play strange tricks. Jackie Shroff was accused of campaigning for a hefty fee. He had to issue a certificate saying he belongs to no party, though he has friends in every party.

• Two Bombay theatres were raided for films like *Meri Pyas Bujhao*. Among those arrested were distributors, theatre managers and even operators. But what did the poor projectionists do? They are employees who put up the machine. Surely they can't add obscene shots in a film.

• Though Mumtaz has come down to work in Bombay films for money, she never loses a chance of boasting about her immense wealth. She keeps talking of the Madhvanis millions. She says she is doing films only to kill boredom. Then why ask for fantastic fees? And how many roles like *Aandhiyan* does she expect to get?

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



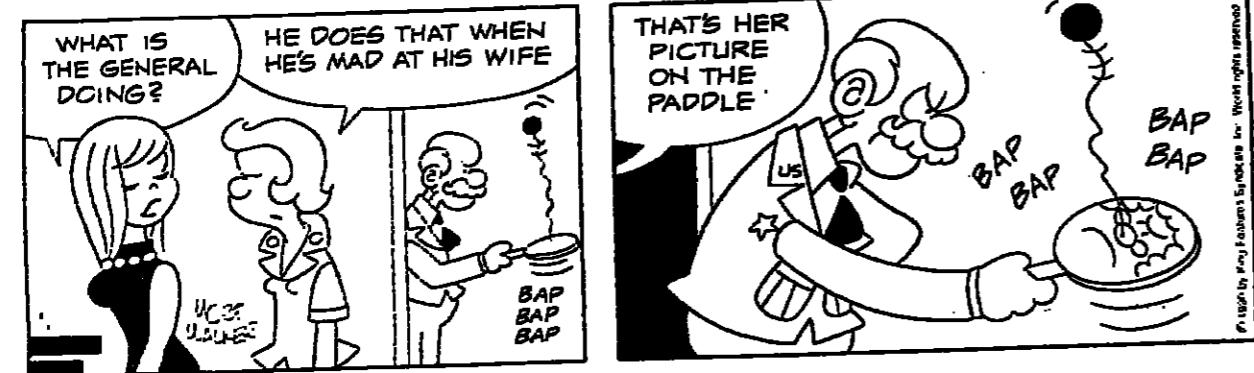
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dil Brown



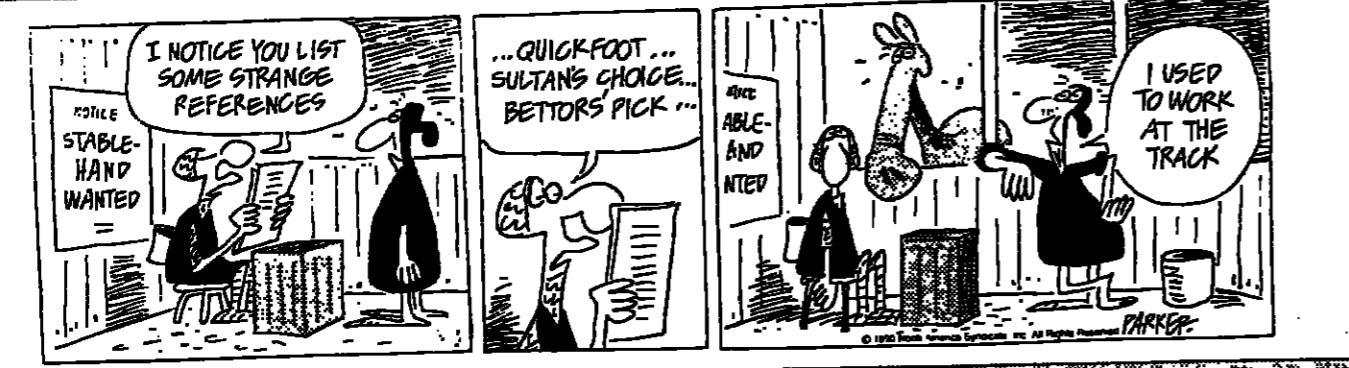
AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Holm



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



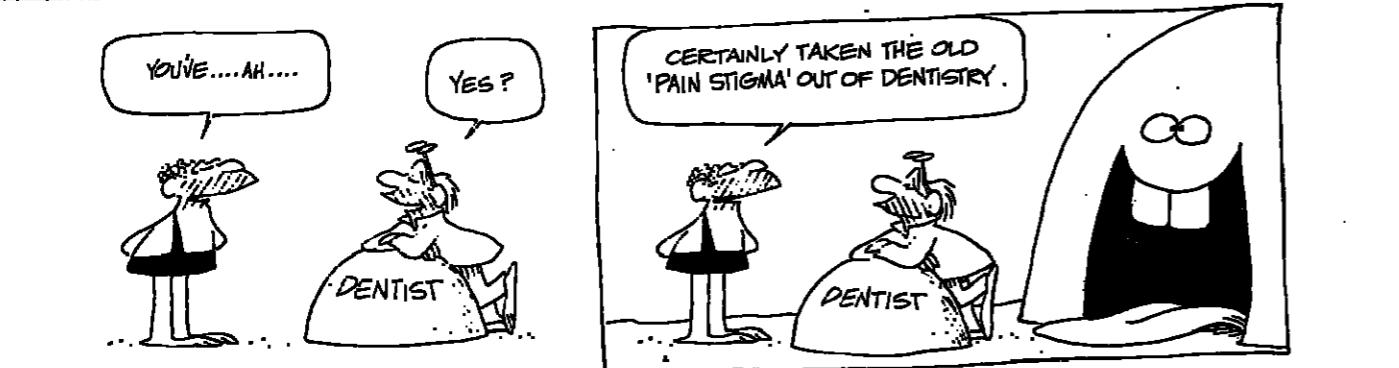
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



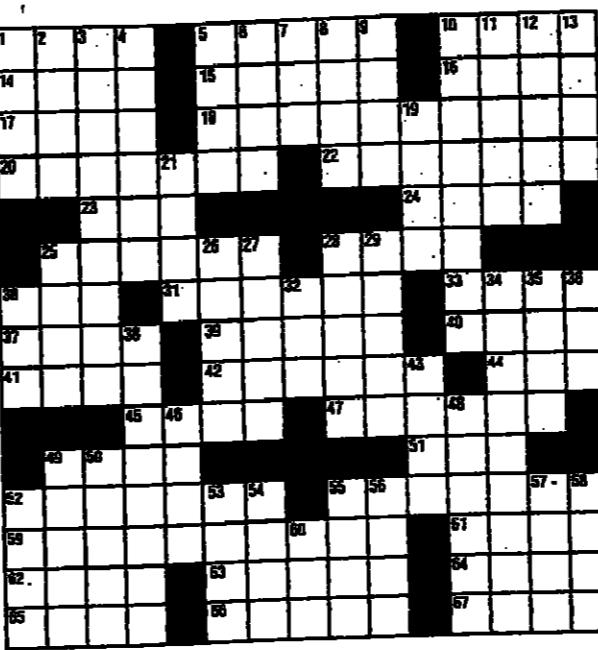
S.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By Mattel Inc.



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



SCREEN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦KJ8 ♦10863 ♦A5 ♦Q1074
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass 3 NT Pass
4 Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AK064 ♦A10832 ♦Void ♦AK9

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 3 Pass
Pass Dbl Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦AQ106 ♦KJ62 ♦J7 ♦J83

The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦K104 ♦A93 ♦QJ92 ♦AK10

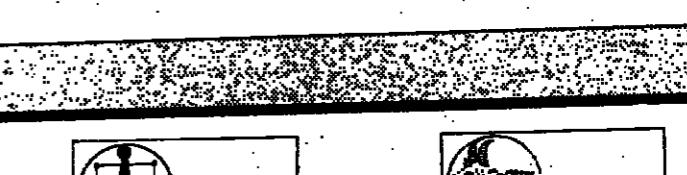
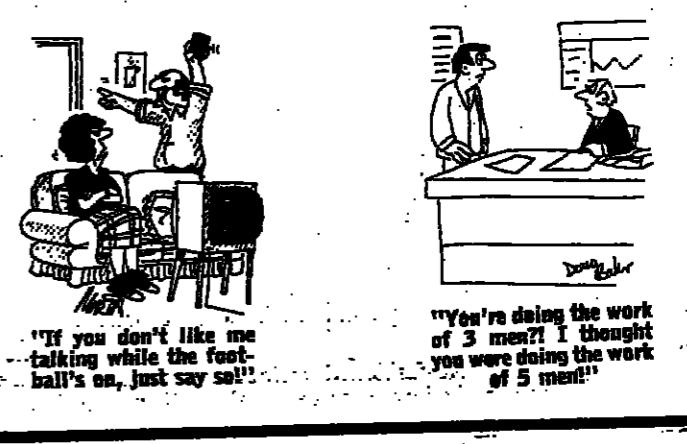
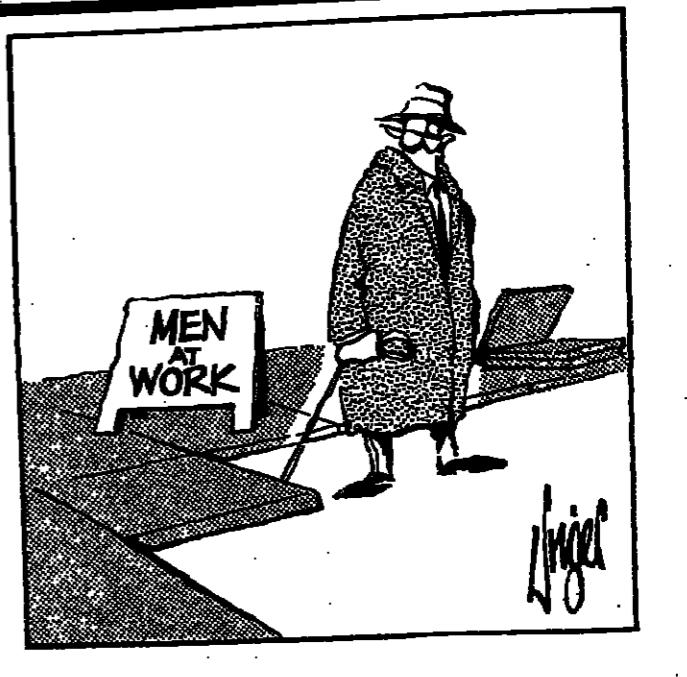
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦1098 ♦KQ4 ♦K7 ♦AJ954

The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
Pass Pass 3 Pass
Pass Dbl Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦KQ4 ♦K7 ♦AJ954

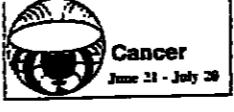
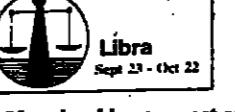
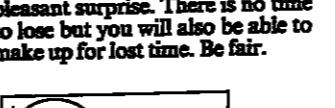
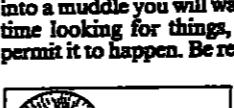
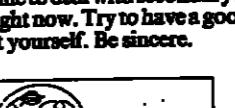
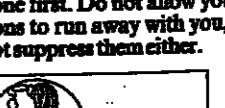
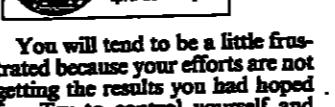
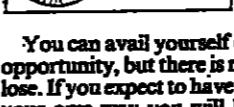
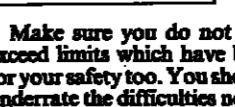
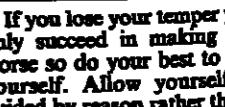
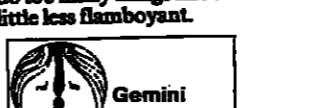
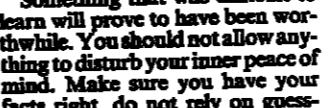
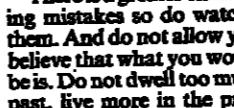
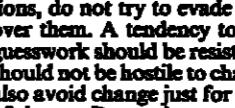
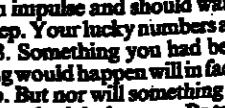
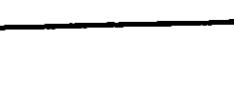
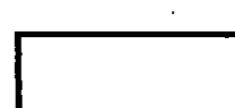
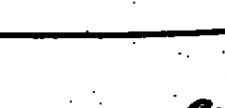
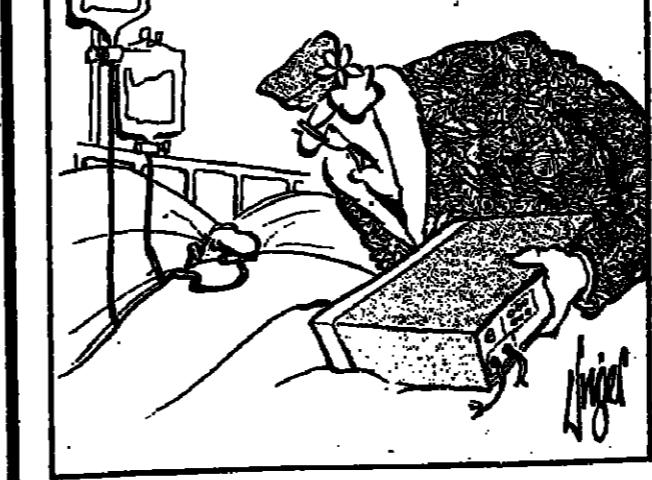
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Dbl ?
What action do you take?



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

TAPE	PAPER	BAILLIE	MINT
ARETE	DIGILE	ADAR	
CARAB	ORILE	RICE	
TILC	AMBASSADORS	HARRY	RITES
SENDS	PAGE		
BIRDS	MINIMUSCLE		
ALDIE	BOOTY	ONEA	
MONSTROUS	INSET	DARS	ANGER
AMIEER	ALGOL		
MIDLY	COODIE	FIB	
ILLIA	DRAIL	NOIRE	
NEAT	MADE	URSAIE	
EESIE	ODOR	ETHER	

YOUR STARS

Aries
March 21 - April 19Cancer
June 21 - July 22Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 19Taurus
April 21 - May 20Leo
July 23 - Aug 22Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 18Gemini
May 21 - June 20Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22Pisces
Feb 19 - March 20Aries
March 21 - April 19Cancer
June 21 - July 22Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22Capricorn
Dec 23 - Jan 19Taurus
April 21 - May 20Leo
July 23 - Aug 22Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 18Gemini
May 21 - June 20Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22Pisces
Feb 19 - March 20

"Show me what to press if I want to record a movie after I've gone to bed."



"We sleep in separate bedrooms mainly to prevent the house from tipping over."

Video Corner



Chevy Chase.

A wish comes true — with some disastrous results

By Shaun Seekins

CHEVY Chase returns as Clark Griswold in the most recent of the National Lampoon series, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. He plays a well-meaning but hopelessly clumsy 'pater familias' of the typically suburban Griswold family. This year he decides to stay at home for the Christmas holidays, thereby removing the link that is supposed to hold the series together. He is determined to have a full-blown, old-fashioned Christmas and throws himself into the spirit of the season with catastrophic results.

What follows is simply every conceivable Christmas nightmare taken to extremes. The lights cause nothing but problems, the bonus he is expecting from his firm doesn't materialise, and his awful family descend on him to shatter any hope of a tranquil celebration.

Cousin Eddie, played by Randy Quaid, is a real backwoods type, and when Chase takes pity on his impoverished situation to invite him and his family for Christmas, decides to repay Clark's hospitality by making his Christmas wish come true with disastrous results.

The last minute parallel with Scrooge and a message of family togetherness are not as effective as scenes such as when the cat gets accidentally blown up, icicles flying through neighbour's windows and Clark's attempts to read a magazine when his hands are covered in tree sap.

As with all slapstick, Clark's violence against himself and others is seldom out of anger and the viewers know that nobody is really going to get hurt (except the cat). A silly movie, but one in which the laughs never stop.

A Time of Destiny is an old-fashioned melodrama about an American immigrant family racked by feuds and rivalry. When Josie (Melissa Leo) elopes with the eminently suitable Jack (Timothy Hutton) the vengeful father sets off in hot pursuit. Though not quick enough to prevent their union, he does persuade Josie to come back home and the father is accidentally drowned. His death causes the return home of the unstable son Martin (William Hurt), who vows to avenge the tragedy. Martin insinuates himself into the same fighting unit as Jack and together they go to the Italian front; he fails in his attempt to shoot Jack, but they both return home knowing that the final confrontation is yet to come.

Two new horror releases this week, *Amityville* and *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* continue their successful runs. *Time Trackers* is a Sci Fi thriller set in the year 2033, when the brilliant scientist Dr Craig has his time machine stolen, his daughter and two friends set off on a trip through time to try to recover it. *Breaking Point* is a taut thriller about the torture an American officer suffers at the hands of the Gestapo during WW2, as they try to make him reveal the secrets of the D-Day landings.

Vietnam Texas stars Robert Ginty as an ex-soldier turned priest who tries to find the daughter he fathered in Vietnam. Set amongst the oriental gangs in Houston, Texas. *Animal Behaviour* stars Karen Allen and Armand Assante, set in a south-western American university, Allen plays a researcher who is trying to teach a chimp to talk and Assante the music teacher who falls for her.

The above films by courtesy of the Video Club, Salma, Tel 5724372, Salhiya Shopping Centre, Kuwait City. Fintas Towers, Safeway Shopping Centre, Farwanya.

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Diuretics can result in potassium loss

QUESTION: We're serious citizens and would like to know just what a certain blood test is for. Some of our doctors have tests taken every six months when we're in for blood pressure checks. It is usually for "potassium," but we have no symptoms of a lack of potassium and are not treated for anything else, so why?

ANSWER: A regular blood test at six-month intervals would make no sense to me either, if you hadn't mentioned that it occurred while you were having your blood pressure checked. Did you forget to tell me that some of you were being treated for high blood pressure?

One classification of medications commonly used to reduce elevated blood pressure is the "thiazide" group, also known as "diuretics" or "water pills." They work to reduce the pressure by reducing the volume of blood through increased urinary excretion, but they also provoke a loss of sodium, potassium and chlorides as well. They are well tolerated medications, have few side effects and are frequently chosen as the first medication in the treatment of hypertension. Since they extract potassium from the body, regular blood tests can be used to check the levels.

Potassium is a most important chemical for the body to have in just the right amounts since it can affect the way electrical currents are carried through the heart, and thus the way the heart beats. In most cases, there is no need to replace potassium in people who are on diuretics, but when the levels are low, liquids containing extra potassium can be provided. Bananas are also an excellent source of potassium, as are prunes, raisins and whole or skimmed milk. If you are on water pills, and receive no additional medications after the blood tests, it's because you are maintaining the right levels of potassium, and so have no need for more medication, and certainly nothing to worry about.

QUESTION: Although I have never been much good at keeping to a training programme, my new living arrangements permit me access to a swimming pool. Although most people just splash around, I'm interested in knowing just how good swimming is as an exercise to lose weight.

ANSWER: The only way to lose the weight is to expend more calories than you take in. Swimming is an excellent way to burn calories, and, combined with a moderate reduction in calories consumed, can help you take off weight. Since it's a rhythmic aerobic exercise, swimming is also beneficial for the heart. It has an added advantage of being good for the back and joints since water bears most of your weight, eliminating excess burdens on the spine, hips, knees and ankles.

To take off a pound of fat, you have to burn 3,500 calories. According to the official YMCA Fitness Programme, the breast strokes burns 7 to 11 calories per minute, the backstroke burns 8 to 11.5 calories per minute, and the crawl 9 to 14 calories per minute, depending on how much you weigh and how fast you swim. A good regimen would be to swim three times a week for 40 minutes. For the purposes of weight reduction, this can be accomplished in divided doses. You would burn off a pound every three weeks without dieting! If you diet too, you could lose weight even faster. And swimming will not only help take weight off, it will firm you up and improve your muscle tone, perhaps giving you a new, svelte look!

The curse of Frankie Goes to Hollywood

By Mike Nichols

WHATEVER happened to *Frankie Goes to Hollywood*? Answer that question and you might also discover what went wrong with pop singer Pete Wylie's career.

For the man who was once tipped to take the place of superstar Holly Johnson as lead vocalist of the group has virtually disappeared from the pop scene.

Now, instead of playing to packed out theatres he has had to settle with small town halls and even pubs.

Like *Frankie Goes To Hollywood* everything has suddenly gone wrong for him.

And Holly, who left the supergroup to pursue a solo career is also finding things hard. As yet he has failed to have a hit on his own as the curse of *Frankie* strikes again.

Wylie soon dropped out of the running for the job and the band have recently had to advertise for a new singer. They placed a small ad in a music magazine stating: Wanted: lead singer for *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*.

Holly had been unhappy with his role in the band for a long time before the split and according to him any new singer is in for BIG

problems.

It is just three years since *Frankie Goes to Hollywood* (FGTH) made chart history, scoring a hat-trick of No. 1 chart successes with their first three singles, *Relax*, *Two Tribes* and *The Power of Love*. After the release of their debut album, *Welcome to the Pleasuredome* in late '84, the band went on a world tour to consolidate their success.

This, apparently, is where the problem began. Holly is basically a shy person and couldn't stand constantly being in the spotlight everytime FGTH reached a different city. On the other hand the rest of the band, especially 'The Lads' -- guitarist Nasser, drummer Pete and bassist Mark O'Toole are typical boisterous Liverpudians.

The lads make their presence felt every time they are invited to make a prestige TV appearance; fire extinguishers are set off, an excess of alcohol is consumed and, at the Montreux Festival in Switzerland they went the whole hog and destroyed the stage after finishing their spot. Damage to equipment was estimated to be £10,000.

The snapshot of all this is that Holly are unlikely to split. Four out of five of them continue to get on perfectly well.

Singer Holly is the odd man out. Not surprisingly he soon started work on a solo album.

In fact, 'The Lads' are so wild that Holly has yet to invite them round to his sumptuous new home in Fulham, West London.

He says jokingly that they'd probably end up smashing up his prized antiques and hand-painted tea service!

Another reason is that Holly's constant companion, Wolfgang, won't have them in the house. And Holly's decision to side with his friend instead of his band is symbolic of the way both parties have grown apart.

Occupying a place somewhere between the two is dancer and backing vocalist Paul Rutherford. Although like Holly, a gentle character, Paul has a strong streak of Lad-ishness in him. Whereas Holly has become something of a recluse, Paul loves going out to clubs and getting drunk and so is able to be a little more tolerant of their behaviour.

The snapshot of all this is that Holly are unlikely to split. Four out of five of them continue to get on perfectly well.

Singer Holly is the odd man out. Not surprisingly he soon started work on a solo album.

And as the principal songwriter in FGTH his decision to leave has left them very short of material.

For a while Pete Wylie was being hotly tipped as their new singer. It would have made a lot of sense. Like the rest of FGTH Pete is a Liverpudian.

He is loud, familiar, friendly and an unshamed extrovert and gatecrasher of parties -- something the Lads would have heartily approved of. The long-established music paper, Melody Maker, awarded him the honour of Litterer (that is to say, free-loader or party-goer) of 1986. It was not unjustified. Hardly a party, club-opening or some sort of boozy affair goes by without Pete in attendance.

In the past he's enjoyed a reasonably successful pop career, scoring Top 10 hits with songs like *The Story Of The Blues*, *Come Back and Sinful*, which was the first record to come out under his own name. The others were made by Wylie the band he formed in the late Seventies.

This followed a brief sojourn in the legendary Crucial Three, a Liverpool band which

also included Ian McCulloch of Echo & The Bunnymen and Julian Cope, who recently had a hit with *World Shut Your Mouth* following the demise of his earlier band, Teardrop Explodes.

Part of the problem for the sudden nosedive in his fortune is his innate shyness.

He claims: "I don't answer the door very often and I have the answering machine on all the time."

"When it comes to people I don't find it easy. I can't walk into a club on my own and I can't walk into shops on my own. But not because I'm in a band -- I've always been like that."

"Okay, I admit it. I'm incredibly insecure, that's why I need to be loved. But I don't necessarily think that that's a bad thing. Just like it doesn't really matter me talking a lot because I have the thing of being able to be funny."

"That's quite important. It doesn't matter if you talk non-stop because if you're funny they don't really notice. It's not as if you're being boring or a dullard or something."

Pop singer Pete Wylie in sombre mood. Now, he too, has been touched by *Frankie Goes To Hollywood* curse.Hit man: Holly Johnson belts out another chartbuster as lead singer with *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*. His solo career has so far failed to take-off.Aiming for the top: Former chart sensations *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*. Now without Holly Johnson in their line-up the band is having to work harder for its success.

Designer gardens

Edible landscaping — a new path of creativity

By Cynthia Hanson,

WOODS HOLE, Mass. (CSM): Line the walkway with lavender and Chinese kale? Why not plant vegetables that look as good as they taste, and ornamentals that taste as good as they look? That's the idea behind a growing concept in gardening: edible landscaping.

"Edible landscaping means that maybe some things are in little rows," says Robert Kourick in Occidental, Calif., "but the way it's laid out is much more visually appealing and less geometric, or the lines don't hit you hard between the beds."

"It's rearranging (edible plants) in more ornamental patterns," says Earle Barnhart, an edible landscaping expert who writes a newspaper column on the subject. "Before recorded history, people have always had food plants around their houses. In fact, a lot more in the past than now," he says. But "calling it 'edible landscaping' is relatively new." The phrase was coined in the '70s.

Barnhart and his wife, Hilde Maingay, design gardens and greenhouses and teach edible landscaping at The New Alchemy Institute, an alternative agriculture, housing, and energy research and education institute here on Cape Cod.

At their suburban, partly greenhouse-holds a five-year-old fig tree, three large aquaculture containers filled with catfish, and red endive, daikon radishes, Chinese mustard greens — all part of an experiment.

Ms. Maingay points to an oversize turnip. "If you didn't eat it in the winter," she says, "next spring it would make a great big raised flower stalk."

Although the outdoor beds lie dormant, during the growing season they teem with combinations of flowers, herbs, and vegetables.

"We have a couple hundred different species of food plants all mixed in here. Some are grapevines that live on the trellises, some are vegetables up in those beds," he says with a wave of his hand, "raspberries and elderberries — many kinds, all mixed up."

Back in the house, rice cookies and carob pods fill a plate on the wooden kitchen table. Maingay talks about the aesthetic and practical nature of edible landscaping:

"Let's say your family needs only two potato plants. There's no reason to put them in a row in a vegetable garden. You could put them right in between your blueberry bushes," she explains in her Dutch-accented English.

The couple sees increased interest in the alternative gardening method they have studied for 18 years. Recently the Chicago Botanic Garden and the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania installed costly food gardening and edible landscaping demonstrations, for example.

"I would say (interest) is growing by leaps and bounds," says Kourick. "When you see English gardening books ... referring to 'edible landscaping,' you know we're getting somewhere," he says.

About the same time Barnhart and Maingay were cultivating edible landscapes on the East Coast, Kourick and another designer, Rosalind Creasy of Los Altos, Calif., were tinkering with edible landscaping on the West Coast.

"As I was taking courses in landscape design, I became very aware that they never used any edible plants. It was forbidden," says Ms. Creasy. "An apple tree was considered ugly, but a crabapple was considered beautiful. It was this amazing split that we had." Creasy and Kourick have written books on the subject.

She is fond of giving tidbits of design advice: "There aren't any ugly herbs. They just fit in with any kind of a shrub border or flower border." For patio or small-space gardening she recommends different varieties of colourful lettuce interspersed with flowers or spilling over the sides of pots.

And for the space-deprived city dweller: "I've photographed some very fascinating edible landscapes on the rooftops of New York City," says Kourick. "Espalier fruit tree and little containers of salad mixes ... that you clip off when it's just 3 or 4 inches tall, and then you can make a mixed salad." (The presence of lead in city soil and air may be a problem; check with a local or national garden club.)

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"The idea is to make it fun," says Kourick. "If the garden becomes a tyrant and controls you, you're doing something wrong," Kourick recommends starting small: no more than 100 square feet of vegetable garden.

The landscapers interviewed agreed that edible landscaping can open new paths of creativity. But not all edible plants are attractive. "I would never vote for a Brussels sprout plant; to me, they look top-heavy," says Creasy. "I don't think pumpkin vines, the big ones, belong in someone's landscape because the vine goes 20 feet." She adds, interplanting mini-pumpkins with purple morning glories over an arbor is "absolutely smashing."

And not all edible flowers are savory. She says Johnny jump-ups "taste like lettuce."

Some Edible Landscapers' Favourites Barnhart and Maingay: Chinese Multiplying Onion. Perennial that produces all year long. Low maintenance, high productivity.

Scarlet Runner Bean. Can cover the side of a house with red flowers that bloom all summer. Edible if picked before it gets large. Recommended for small city spaces.

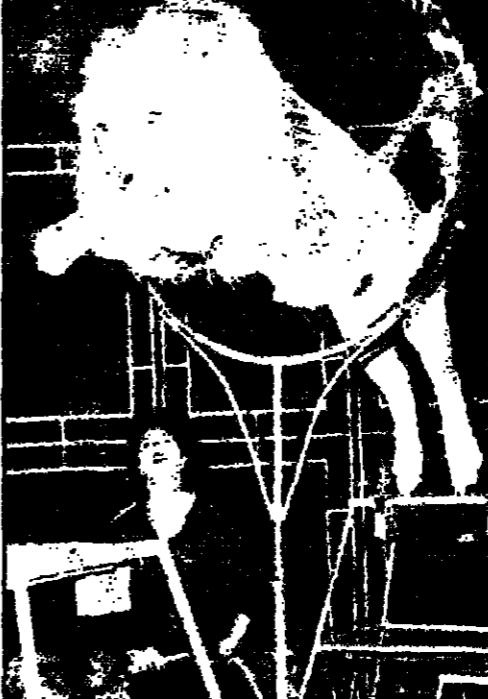
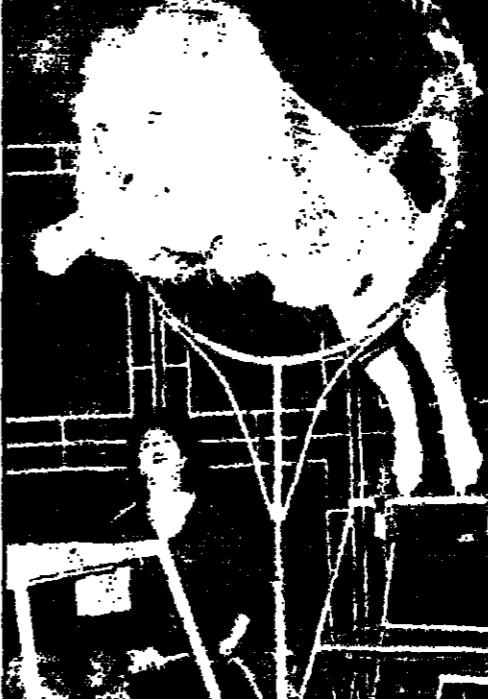
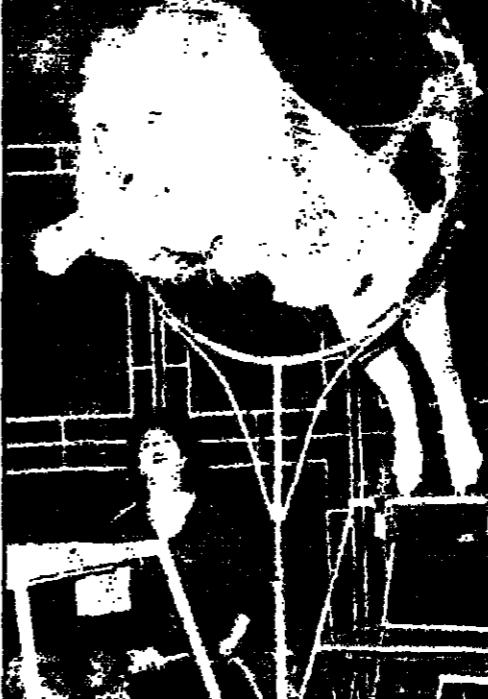
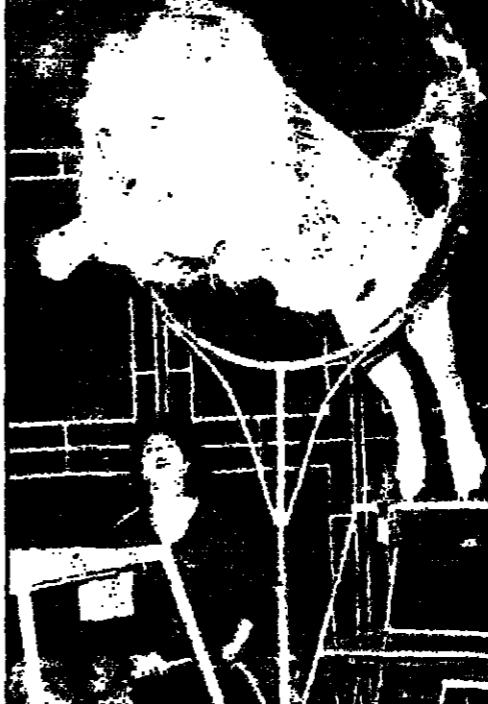
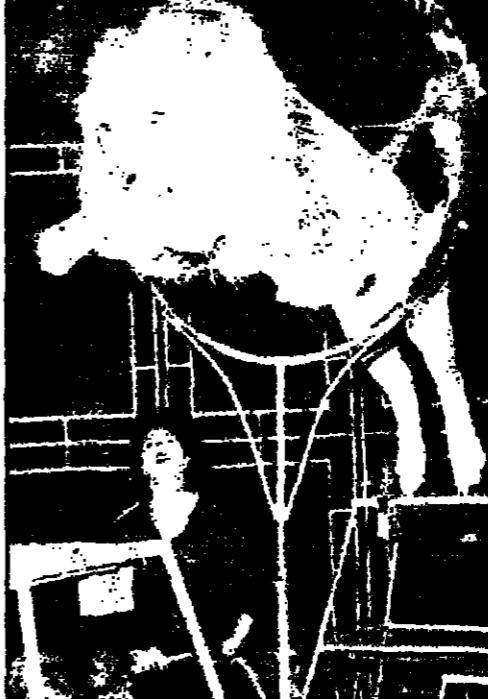
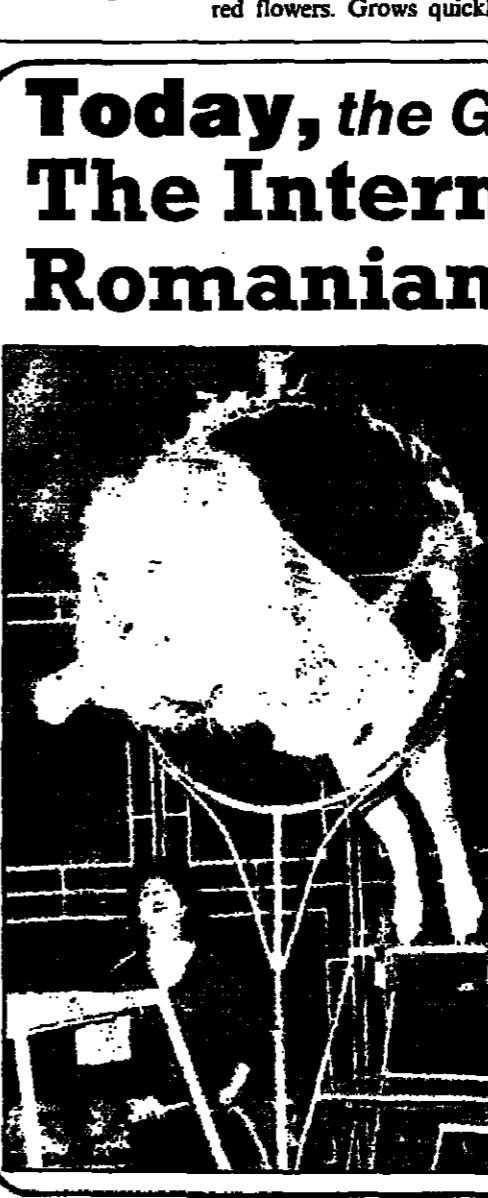
Thyme. A great herb to grow through patio cracks.

Rosaled Creasy: Lavender. Makes great lavender ice cream and a beautiful border.

Nasturtium. Spicy orange, yellow, and red flowers. Grows quickly in spring.



Earle Barnhart and Hilde Maingay stand in the doorway of one of their greenhouses in Woods Hole, Mass.



SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Stromberg back

STOCKHOLM, April 4. (Reuter): Midfielder Glenn Stromberg, a key player in the Swedish national side during the 1980s, was recalled to the squad yesterday after an absence of six months for a World Cup soccer warm-up match against Algeria.

Dutch side

AMSTERDAM, April 4. (Reuter): Johan Cruyff said yesterday he was prepared to discuss taking over the Dutch national soccer side for the World Cup finals if coach Thijss Liberts loses his legal action to save his job.

Argentine manager

MILAN, Italy, April 4. (AP): Carlos Salvador Bilardo yesterday was quoted as saying he will resign as manager of Argentina's national soccer team following "the very last game of my team in the next World Cup, which I hope is the July 8 final."

Milan stadium

MILAN, Italy, April 4. (AP): The international soccer federation (Fifa) has urged Italian organisers to refile the bid for Milan's Meazza stadium, where the World Cup opened between Argentina and Cameroon is scheduled June 8.

Argentina win

BELFAST, April 4. (Reuter): World champions Argentina, minus Diego Maradona, ended their 10-match goalless run by beating Northern Ireland club side Linfield 1-0 yesterday.

Ajax triumph

AMSTERDAM, April 4. (Reuter): Ajax Amsterdam smashed five goals past relegation-threatened Haarlem to go level on points with PSV Eindhoven at the top of the Dutch League yesterday.

Perimeter fencing

LONDON, April 4. (Reuter): Perimeter fencing at Sheffield Wednesday's Hillsborough soccer ground where 95 fans were crushed to death a year ago is to be taken down at the end of the season.

Appeal lost

LONDON, April 4. (Reuter): Former West Ham manager Lou Macari had his appeal yesterday against his censorship by the English Football Association (FA) for breaching rules on betting while in charge at Second Division Swindon.

Brazil squad

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 4. (AP): Sébastien Lazaroni, coach of Brazil's national soccer team, has confirmed he will name injured star Romário to the World Cup squad despite a broken leg.

Fifa president

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 4. (AP): Joao Havelange, president of soccer's international ruling body (Fifa), says he has no intention of lifting the lifetime ban on Chilean goalkeeper Roberto Rojas, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Major stadium

PARIS, April 4. (AP): The French National Olympic and sports committee yesterday proposed construction of a major stadium in the Bois de Vincennes, on the outskirts of Paris, as part of a bid to play host to the 1988 World Cup soccer tournament.

Marsh banned

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 4. (Reuter): Henry Marsh, former national steeplechase and four-time US Olympian, has been suspended for two years for failing to be tested for drugs, the Athletics Congress (TAC) said yesterday.

Brabham quits

LONDON, April 4. (Reuter): Gary Brabham yesterday resigned as Grand Prix driver for the Life racing engines Formula One team because of dissatisfaction at the team's lack of progress this season.

Washburn jailed

DECATUR, Georgia, April 4. (AP): Chris Washburn, who was expelled from the National Basketball Association because of drug problems, was in a suburban Atlanta jail yesterday after his arrest for cocaine and marijuana possession.

Title defence

NEWARK, New Jersey, April 4. (AP): IBF junior welterweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez must defend his title against Melvick Taylor within six months, the boxing organization ruled yesterday.

Banespa Open

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 4. (AP): Top-seeded Luis Mattar of Brazil beat countryman Jaime Oncins in a come-from-behind 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 first-round victory yesterday in the \$250,000 Banespa Open tennis tournament.

Estoril Open

ESTORIL, Portugal, April 4. (AP): Top seeded Jay Berger of the United States trounced Portugal's Joao Cunha-Silva 6-1, 6-3 yesterday, to advance to the second round of the \$250,000 ATP men's Estoril Open.

KPBC set to take on EEI for KPBL 1st Conference title

EEI — Engineering Equipment Inc. battle KPBC-Kuwait Pre-Fab Building Co. for the KPBL 1st Conference title tomorrow, at the Kafra High School Gym. Game time is 7:30 pm, right after the Trico v KHC-Bayan battle for 3rd place.

EEI is expected to have their hands full as the KPBC go all out to avenge their One-Day Championship loss to the former. In their previous encounter, in a test of skill, patience and endurance, KPBC bowed out 63-65. Halftime score stood at 32-35 in favour of EEI.

Since then both teams went separate ways and won all of their 6 matches (2 in the semifinals and 4 in the eliminations). EEI beat Al Ghanim 86-70 and then followed it up with a 117-83 rout of Nissan Al Babtum. Next was Trico International who they beat to the tune

Fiorentina, Bremen draw 1-1 Sampdoria hold Monaco

MONACO, April 4. (Reuter): Two goals by star striker Gianluca Vialli gave Sampdoria a 2-2 draw at Monaco yesterday in sight of a second successive European Cup Winner's Cup final.

Vialli, back in first team action after two months out with a foot injury, stunned the French League club with two goals in three minutes in the second half of the semifinal first leg.

He fired home a 75th minute penalty then followed up with a superb header.

Monaco dominated the first half and led through Liberian George Weah in the 43rd minute. Fabrice Mege equalised in the 79th minute.

The outcome may prove insufficient for Monaco in the return leg in Genoa in two weeks against the team who lost to Barcelona in last year's final.

Weah, voted Africa's Footballer of the Year in 1989, headed home a pass from Argentine Rattton Diaz to silence 10,000 Sampdoria supporters.

The goal was richly deserved

because Monaco's attacking pair had constantly outshone Sampdoria's duo of Vialli and Roberto Mancini.

As early as the third minute, Diaz had missed an ideal chance after a perfect pass from Weah. Weah was guilty of two glaring missed chances in the 35th and 37th minutes.

Spurred by the setback, Vialli and Mancini found all their flair in the second half.

In the 49th minute, Mancini threatened Monaco goalkeeper Jean-Luc Etori for the first time with a vicious header from a pass by Vialli.

Eleven minutes later Attilio Lombardo fed Mancini, who lobbed Etori but the ball rolled narrowly wide.

Sampdoria finally broke through when Vialli was awarded a penalty after a foul by Roger Mende.

Three minutes later, in a copy of Monaco's first goal, Vialli headed home his second from a splendid pass by Mancini.

Monaco levelled straight away when Mege broke clear on his own and lobbed Luca Pagliuca.

● A bizarre own goal in the dying seconds by Fiorentina goalkeeper Marco Landucci kept alive Werder Bremen's hopes of a place in the UEFA Cup final with a 1-1 draw in their semifinal first leg yesterday.

Landucci fumbled a curled corner in the 90th minute after a collision with defender Sergio

Battistini and the ball ended in the net to earn the West German side a draw to take to the second leg in Italy in two weeks.

But the mistake was just reward for a hard-working Werder side who attacked throughout but had been hit by a breakaway goal by Marco Nappi in the 78th minute.

Much to the distaste of the 23,000-crowd, Fiorentina packed their defence with players for most of the match, making it difficult for the West Germans to find space to shoot at goal.

"We attacked one goal for virtually the whole 90 minutes," Werder coach Otto Rehhagel said afterwards. "The equaliser was justice."

Fiorentina packed all eleven players into their own penalty area on several occasions in the second half to hold off Werder who knocked holders Napoli out of the competition in the third round.

"The Italians concentrated on their defence as expected so it was very difficult for us to score," Rehhagel said. "My team battled brilliantly. We are still in with a great chance for the second leg."

But Fiorentina coach Francesco Graziani, whose negative defensive tactics won him few friends among the bremen crowd, said he believed his team would have a psychological advantage when the teams met a second time.



Bremen's Karl Heinz Reidele (centre) is sandwiched between Fiorentina's Pin (left) and Maiussi. (Reuter wirephoto)

Faldo set to defend Masters golf title

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 4. (Reuter): Nick Faldo is not worried about successfully defending his Masters title this year.

"There's no pressure on me to repeat," the 32-year-old Englishman said yesterday, two days before the start of the 1990 Masters.

"That's only been done by Jack," he explained, referring to Jack Nicklaus, one of the greatest golfers of all time and the only one to win back-to-back Masters.

"I'm able to forget about last year. Once I start out there, it's all fresh," said an obviously relaxed Faldo, who won the coveted green jacket on the Masters champion last year with a birdie on the second hole of a sudden death playoff with American Scott Hoch.

While Faldo, the 1985 British Open champion, took a casual attitude toward winning consecutive Masters titles, he acknowledged that he was in a good position to do just that.

"I'm feeling better than I did last year," he told reporters after a practice round over the 5,905-yard (6,313 metre) course at the Augusta National Golf Club, permanent home of the Masters.

"I feel well prepared. It's just a matter of being relaxed and going out and playing," Faldo added.

However, repeating as Masters champion has proven almost impossible over the years.

Since the great Bobby Jones founded the tournament in 1934 only Nicklaus has managed the feat — in 1965 and 1966 — but barely. He had to survive an 18-hole playoff with two others to do it.

When Sandy Lyle, Faldo's Scottish nemesis, returned to Augusta last year after winning his green jacket in 1988, he failed to make the cut with rounds of 77 and 76.

Seve Ballesteros, the brilliant Spaniard considered to be one of the world's best these days, won the Masters in 1980 and 1983 and he, too, failed to make the cut the following year.

Faldo has his work cut out for him this week as there are any number of players here who could win this event, the first of golf's four "major" championships.

One need look no further than the 50-year-old Nicklaus, who has won the Masters six times — more than anyone else.

Nicklaus, who has also been second at Augusta four times, is coming off a victory on Sunday in the first senior tournament of his career and he says he is playing some of the best golf of his life.

Nicklaus shares Augusta National's 72-hole record of 71 — 17 under par. "Obviously I like the course and know how to play it," he said of Augusta after his four-stroke victory in the seniors event on Sunday.

Ballesteros could also start the 1990s as he did the 1980s, when he won the first of his two green jackets.

While he has not played up to his usual form this year, Ballesteros finished a strong third on Sunday in the US PGA Tour event at the Woodlands in Texas and he could be poised for victory here.

If anyone is ready to win at Augusta, it could be Australian Greg Norman, who has finished within one stroke of the winner in three of the past four Masters — including 1987, when Larry Mize chipped in for a birdie on the second hole of their playoff.

Norman has already won once in this country — at the Dor. I Open, when he chipped in for an eagle on the first playoff hole — and he finished second in the Bay Hill Classic two weeks ago.

Nicklaus hits spectator

AUGUSTA, Georgia, April 4. (AP): Jack Nicklaus, fresh off his first victory as a senior, hit a spectator with a golf ball yesterday during his first practice round at the Masters.

Nicklaus, a six-time Masters champion, hooked his second shot on the 555-yard par 5 second hole and the ball hit the spectator just below the right eye.

Another spectator used a handkerchief to stem the flow of blood. Nicklaus came over and apologized, patting the man on the back.

Nicklaus resumed his round with Greg Norman and Arnold Palmer after a few minutes of conversation with the injured spectator.

As a result of the wind shift the first mark was no longer a windward mark; the first leg had become a beam reach and the quick thinking Shammal levelled seconds before halftime.

Neuchatel Xamax striker Frederic Chassot, who has scored five goals for the Swiss League leaders in their last four games, put the hosts ahead with an opportunistic goal three minutes into the second half.

Romania, fresh from their recent 3-1 victory over fellow-World Cup qualifiers Egypt in Cairo, tried hard to get the term but were held by a resolute Swiss defense.

The win after the 1-0 defeat by World Cup hosts Italy in Basel on Saturday was a welcome morale booster for Swiss national coach Uli Stielike after four defeats in seven matches.

The second leg to Bell Buoy proved to be a beat in gentle 6 knot breezes with the aid of a very strong springs ebb tide. Gull Wing was relishing the conditions and had opened up a very handy lead over her tie-for-tac opponent, Dana. Red Viking tacked onto port after deciding there was no value in sitting into the second half.

Meanwhile, Red Viking had extracted herself from the depths of Bell Buoy and overtook Shammal, Good Company and Whispering by sailing a direct line for the mark.

After gybing the Mast's mark, the leading Dunat was intercepted by a branch of the local security forces and advised to abandon the race and return to the Shaab Marina. With great disappointment made their way back to Shaab.

Results of the Koss Spring Series: 1) Red Viking 2) Shammal 3) Magic Flute.

The local racing calendar has now concluded and the focus for the next month is directed towards Bahrain. A feeder race, Shab to Khiran Resort over a 75 mile distance is scheduled for Thursday April 12 starting at 4:00 pm.

Red Viking had over-stepped the mark and combined with a falling breeze found herself stranded downwind of Bell Buoy. Her crew were forced to knock down a second sundowner as they witnessed the fleet race by; Shammal, Good Company, Magic Flute and

Whispering rode the amazingly strong tide to their advantage.

With the sun well and truly set the various crews donned warmer clothing and looked forward to what they all hoped would be an enjoyable night's sail. Gull Wing tacked into port and appeared to sail past the Mast's mark. This let Dunat in as she maintained her heading and turned a 10 minute deficit into a 5 minute lead.

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The 3rd game of the day will pit Trico International against KHC-Bayan. This is going to be another exciting and interesting match as the two teams meet for the very first time to dispute 3rd & 4th Places respectively KHC-Bayan, Delia Cruz and Fer "Pasay Kid" Delia Cruz.

Opponents-wise EEI looks the top pick. However defensively KPBC seems a wise bet as no opponent of KPBC managed to score over 94 points. Experts predict a down to wire cardiac finish with the team maintaining their composure in the end game prevailing.

In other matches of the day, the 1st game starting at 3:00 pm will pit KPBC v Trico Overland. Overland, last week's loser to KPBC by a mere 2 points (83-85), are

expected to go all out for that win that could earn them the top slot in the Consolation Round.

The second match of the day is between Al Ghanim Freight & Travel and the depleted KDD-Kuwait Danish Dairy. This is also a winner-take-all match for the Consolation Round pendan. Al Ghanim is slightly favoured with the return of vaccination player Danny Sacueza to its fold.

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SPORTS**SPORTS BRIEFS****Dope tests**

COLOGNE, West Germany, April 4. (Reuters) Random dope tests in training must be underway worldwide by next year to safeguard the credibility of top-class sport at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, a leading doping expert said yesterday. International Olympic Committee (IOC) drugs expert Manfred Donike said sport needed to move fast to introduce tests for muscle-building anabolic steroids to make sure athletes could be proved to be drug-free in the last year before Barcelona.

NBA games

NEW YORK, April 4. (Reuters) Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday:

Detroit P	93	Boston	82
New York	106	Cleveland	97
Golden State	127	Orlando	126
Philadelphia	133	Houston	112
Chicago	109	Indiana	102
Minnesota	92	San Antonio	90
Utah	127	Charlotte	104
L.A. Clippers	114	Sacramento	105
Seattle	136	Portland	134
Phoenix	117	Dallas	111

IOC member

NAIROBI, Kenya, April 4. (AP) Reginald S. Alexander, a Kenyan politician, sports enthusiast and founding member of the International Olympic Committee, has died of an undisclosed illness. He was 75.

Tour winner

PARIS, April 4. (AP) Greg Lemond, winner of the Tour De France and the World Cycling Championships, plans to take the month of April off from competition to recuperate, officials from his Z cycling team said yesterday.

Italian club

ROME, April 4. (AP) Messaggero Roma, the Italian basketball club that has been chasing young American stars since last year, is bidding for Loyola Marymount University forward Bo Kimble, club sources said yesterday.

Portuguese GP

LISBON, Portugal, April 4. (AP) The Formula One circus will not come to town for September's Portuguese Grand Prix, unless the owners of the Estoril race track and the Portuguese Automobile Club end a bitter feud by Thursday, the president of the National Auto Racing Authority said.

Mendy hurt

ST ETIENNE, France, April 4. (UPI) Bernard Mendy, St Etienne's international B team striker, will miss the rest of the French League season with a pulled left thigh muscle, team officials said yesterday. Mendy was injured Saturday in his club's 1-1 draw with Toulouse.

Elimination fight

NAIROBI, April 4. (UPI) Kenyan Juma Kutondo will meet 24-year-old Dave Chibuye of Zambia in a 12-round Commonwealth light-welterweight elimination fight in Nairobi Saturday, local boxing promoter Reuben Ndoli announced yesterday.

Japanese stadium

TOKYO, April 4. (UPI) The National Stadium, main site of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic games, was closed for seven months, starting Monday, to undergo face lifting reconstruction in preparation for the World Track and Field Championships next year, the Japan Amateur Athletic Federation said yesterday.

Austrian director

VIENNA, April 4. (UPI) Austria's Davis Cup team director Ronald Leitgeb said yesterday he is against using the indoor ferry Dusika Stadium when Austria faces the US in the semifinals September. "We should have it outdoors," said Leitgeb, who is also Thomas Muster's manager.

Dutch captain

LEUVEN, Belgium, April 4. (UPI) Dutch captain Ruud Gullit will have fully recovered from a year-long injury and reach match fitness for the World Cup soccer finals in Italy, his surgeon said yesterday. Gullit, the derailed AC Milan star, underwent three operations on a knee injury under the supervision of specialist Dr Martens of Leuven University Hospital, Belgium.

Navratilova renews quest for 150th title



Navratilova: thrashed Cioffi



Richardson: hit an excellent 80

Richardson, Best hit half centuries

West Indies beat England

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 4. (Reuters) Richie Richardson struck a superb 80 to guide West Indies to a four-wicket victory over England with three balls to spare in the fifth and final one-day international yesterday.

It gave West Indies a 3-0 win in the series with the first two matches having been abandoned due to rain. It was their 16th consecutive one-day victory in the Caribbean, their last defeat being four years ago against England in Port of Spain.

West Indies, who won the field, scored 217 for six in 37.3 overs in reply to England's 214 for three.

But what will worry England is not their fifth successive one-day defeat against West Indies, but the thumb injury sustained by their replacement batsmen David Smith.

Smith was struck a nasty blow by a short ball from Ezra Moseley, the same bowler who broke one of Graham Gooch's fingers and precipitated Smith's call-up.

An X-ray showed there was no fracture but bad bruising may still alter England's plans to include him in the team for the fifth Test match starting tomorrow.

Smith also has a cut on his chin caused by the ball bouncing into his face after he was struck. He was also hit on the helmet by



Moseley's first ball and later played on to the Barbadian after having made a disappointing five runs in 14 overs.



Although the match, reduced to 38 overs-a-side because of rain, went to the last over the outcome was never really in doubt after Richardson and Carlisle Best had put on 112 in 18 overs for the third wicket.

Des Haynes had given the innings a tremendous start with 45 from 53 balls as the 50 came up in the 11th over. Haynes hit seven fours as well as a six before he was out to a brilliant catch at mid-on by Nasser Hussain off spinner Eddie Hemmings.

Richardson, who was dropped twice, reached his 50 from only 57 balls and was finally fifth out in the 35th over when he tried to swing Gladstone Small over mid-wicket and lost his off-stump. He hit 11 fours as well as a six over extra cover off David Capel.

Best's 51 was no less flamboyant, coming off 44 balls and including six fours and six flicked effortlessly off his legs off Small who was easily the pick of the England bowlers.

England's total was a bigger one than at one time had seemed attainable. When Wayne Larkins was yorked for 34 by Courtney Walsh in the 25th over the score was only 98 but Lamb joined Robin Smith to add 64 in eight overs.

Cutting and driving with immense power, Smith reached his 50 from 71 balls. In all he hit seven fours and faced 85 balls before he was brilliantly runout for 69 by Curly Ambrose off his

own bowling.

Five overs remained after Smith's dismissal and 52 were plundered from them with Lamb racing to a superb unbeaten 55 which included seven fours.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
D. Smith b Moseley	5
W. Larkins b Walsh	34
R. Smith run out	69
A. Lamb run out	55
N. Hussain not out	15
Extras (b-6 lb-8 w-14 nb-12)	36
Total (38 overs)	214
(innings closed)	

Fall of wickets: 1-4 2-98 3-161

Did not bat: D. Capel, J. Russell, P. DeFreitas, C. Lewis, G. Small, E. Hemmings.

Bowling: Ambrose 9-2-31-0, Walsh 8-0-45-2, Moseley 7-0-43-1, Marshall 8-0-50-0, Hooper 6-0-31-0.

WEST INDIES

D. Moseley b Hussain b Hemmings	45
G. Greenidge c Russell b Small	6
R. Richardson b Small	80
C. Best c sub b Capel	51
G. Logie c Larkins b DeFreitas	2
C. Hooper c Larkins b Small	12
J. Dujon not out	11
E. Hemmings not out	1
Extras (lb-6 nb-2-1)	9
Total (six wickets, 37.3 overs)	217
Fall of wickets: 1-39 2-78 3-190 4-193 5-199 6-212	

Did not bat: Malcolm Marshall, Curly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh.

Bowling: Small 9-1-29-3, DeFreitas 8-3-0-63-1, Lewis 5-0-35-0, Capel 6-0-53-1, Hemmings 9-0-31-1.

Result: West Indies won by four wickets



Jorgensen, Lillelund win

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jennie Jorgensen and Kirsten Lillelund strolled the show at the Daniela Tennis Open, held at the Gazelle Club recently.

Jorgensen lived up to his billing as favourite when he beat Carsten Buus 1-6 6-7-5 to take the title in the men's event. Buus just raced through the first set but Jorgensen got his game going in the second.

Buus was ahead 5-2 in the deciding set but Jorgensen refused to surrender and fought back to take the game and the title.

Lillelund had an easier time in the ladies section, where she beat Henrik Jorgensen 6-3 6-2 to clinch the crown.

Lillelund later combined with Jorn Ratche to beat Jennie and Marianne 6-4 6-3 to take the doubles title.

Jakob Hansen won the men's beginners' section with a 6-4 7-5 victory over Jorn Ratche while Marianne W. was the best among the ladies' beginners. Marianne beat Bente R. 7-4 in a one set game.



Egypt cancels League

CAIRO, April 4. (Reuters) Egypt has decided to scrap its League competition to concentrate on preparations for June's World Cup finals, a sports official said today.

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Convenor of selectors Don Neely said earlier he could give the vice-captaincy for the upcoming England tour to someone who would be available for New Zealand next season.

"To be honest I didn't hear what Don Neely said ... it was entirely a thing I sorted out myself," Crowe said.

Crowe said the speculation was based on a 10-minute chat he had with a Queensland cricket official last week in Brisbane.

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